West Deptford Middle School joined Rowan’s Professions Development Schools (PDS) Network on Friday, September 29th in a ceremony held in front of the school.

School officials and University representatives were on hand as the banner was revealed during a celebration to officially welcome the school to Rowan’s PDS network. While West Deptford marks the 9th PDS school, it is the first middle school in the network.

To make the day even more special, the school’s 7th and 8th grade band and the 8th grade choir both performed musical selections.

In addition to Rowan’s Dean Monika Shealey and Dr. Stacey Leftwich, the audience heard from West Deptford Board of Education President Pete Guzzetti, Superintendent Steven Crispin, and Principal Christine Trampe.

Natoya Coleman, Instruction of Interdisciplinary and Inclusive Education, was introduced as the Professor in Residence (PIR) at the school. In this role, she will work in collaboration with the school’s teachers to support professional development and research. Rowan undergraduate teacher candidates based at the school will learn through this partnership.

Dean Shealey explained, “Our College’s tagline is Access, Success, and Equity... Turning Research Into Practice. Together we will work to ensure positive outcomes for all learners, particularly those who have been traditionally underserved.”

The PDS Network promotes scholarship through local and national presentations and publications by Rowan faculty and PDS partner teachers and students.

Along with West Deptford Middle School, the other members of Rowan’s PDS Network include Glassboro’s J. Harvey Rodgers, Bowe, and Bullock Schools, Holly Glen Elementary School in Williamstown, Johnstone Elementary School in Vineland, and the Cherry Street, Quarter Mile Lane, and West Avenue Schools in Bridgeton.

For additional information regarding Rowan’s PDS Network: https://academics.rowan.edu/education/ESP/pds/index.html