

## **Welcome Urban GEMS!!!!**

Thanks to a Connect and Collaborate grant from OSU, our Parsons Area Merchants Association (PAMA) has created a new partnership with OSU Researcher Deanna Wilkinson and her award-winning Urban GEMS program. On Thursday, Urban GEMS had its first official meeting in our brand-new PAMA Business Center, at 1854 Parsons Avenue. (No signs yet, but soon!) This space is one-stop shopping for our PAMA organization to promote business, workforce development, and entrepreneurship for South Columbus, and we're sharing the space with our friends at The Ohio State University and their wonderful Urban GEMS program, planting 12 new aeroponic towers where Deanna's young entrepreneurs will be growing produce for sale at local farmers markets and elsewhere. PAMA is currently designing large wall-covering information displays which will be installed in the center over the next couple weeks. More on that later, and on our website [www.ParsonsArea.com](http://www.ParsonsArea.com)

I'm making this posting because I'm excited about our new PAMA Business Center and what our PAMA and OSU partnership means for our community. I'm also sharing info about OSU's new crowdfunding project to help Deanna expand her program with more sites and more towers and more young entrepreneurs. Check out her cool video at <http://bit.ly/2xWMXIC>