

# State College Area School District Education FOUNDATION



**SPRING GRANT  
PROJECTS**  
PAGE 4

**MATCHING FUND  
OPPORTUNITY**  
PAGE 7

**FOLLOW THE  
FOUNDATION**  
PAGE 16

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FROM THE EDUCATION FOUNDATION BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS, VOLUNTEERS AND SUPPORTERS

## CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2023!



## OUR MISSION

THE STATE COLLEGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT EDUCATION FOUNDATION IS COMMITTED TO ENHANCING THE EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE OF STUDENTS WITHIN THE STATE COLLEGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT BY PROVIDING FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR INNOVATIVE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES.

## OUR VISION

AN ENRICHING EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE THAT CHALLENGES AND INSPIRES EVERY STUDENT TO REACH HIS OR HER FULL POTENTIAL.



## RENEWING LONGTIME FRIENDSHIPS AND MAKING NEW MEMORIES AT MAROON & GRAY SOCIETY CELEBRATION

As the Maroon & Gray Society Celebration grows and evolves, the annual event has become more than just an awards ceremony; it is an opportunity for alumni, families and friends of SCASD to gather, reminisce and make new memories.

This year's honorees spanned six decades, helping to draw old friends and colleagues, parents and families, and long-time supporters of the district for an evening of food, fun and friendship. Rain in the early part of the evening let up in time for guests to enjoy the beautiful view from Centre Hills Country Club following a video presentation and induction of the 2023 class of the Maroon & Gray Society.

Also in attendance this year was the family of the late Richard M. Bunnell '49, on hand to acknowledge contributions to the fund they launched in his memory to support extracurricular opportunities for students. All proceeds from the event have been designated to this important fund. If you missed the event, you can give to the fund online at [scasdfoundation.org](https://scasdfoundation.org).

Thank you to all who attended and helped to make this event so special. See you next year!



2023 Maroon & Gray Society Inductees (pictured with Education Foundation Board Members)



# ● MAROON & GRAY SOCIETY CELEBRATION



"The Three Captains" John Schempf '58, Captain, U.S. Coast Guard; Paula (Schempf) Carroll '62 Captain, U.S. Coast Guard; Peter Schempf '66, Captain, U.S. Navy



1973 State Champion Little Lions Football Team



Superintendent Curtis Johnson congratulates an honoree.



Gerard (Gerry) Mansell '72, Sergeant First Class, U.S. Army



Emcee Jeff Byers



John Casey, Retired Principal, Mount Nittany Middle School



Education Foundation President Mary Kay Montovino



Marisa Vicere '01, President & Founder, Jana Marie Foundation



Whitney Stringer '02, Principal, Whitney Stringer, PR & Events



Family of Richard M. Bunnell '49



Education Foundation Board

**2024 NOMINATIONS WILL OPEN SOON! WATCH YOUR EMAIL AND SOCIAL MEDIA FOR THE CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2024 MAROON & GRAY SOCIETY!**

# Thank you

## MAROON & GRAY CELEBRATION SPONSORS



## JANE SNOWDON '77 TALKS MATCHING GIFTS, THE IMPACT OF DONOR SUPPORT AND HER RECENT TRIP OF A LIFETIME

Jane Snowdon '77 is a powerhouse in the field of health and human services. She was inducted into the SCASD Education Foundation's Maroon & Gray Society as part of the 2020 class (at the 2022 celebration) and she is a strong supporter of the organization. Recently Jane made a generous contribution to the Mardi Lowry McDonough '87 Student Opportunity Fund with a matching grant from her employer (IBM). We talked with Jane about why she supports the Education Foundation and where life has taken her since last year's Maroon & Gray celebration.



Jane Snowdon '77

### WHY DO YOU SUPPORT THE EDUCATION FOUNDATION?

I am driven to support the Education Foundation so that more young women and men will see their potential recognized and feel supported. The Education Foundation provides all students with enriching and innovative learning opportunities. These experiences help prepare and inspire students to make technical and social contributions to society after graduation. It is important to me to give back to the State College Area School District, the community, and the people who were especially instrumental in my formative years and throughout my life.

### WHY ARE FUNDS LIKE THE MARDI LOWRY MCDONOUGH '87 FUND IMPORTANT FOR PROVIDING EXTRA RESOURCES DIRECTLY TO TEACHERS FOR PROJECTS THEY BELIEVE ARE WORTHWHILE?

With rising inflation and declining education appropriations, funds like the Mardi Lowry McDonough '87 fund and

Richard M. Bunnell '49 Memorial Fund are essential for augmenting teachers' resources for projects and extracurricular activities across the school district.

“IT IS IMPORTANT TO ME TO GIVE BACK TO THE STATE COLLEGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT, THE COMMUNITY, AND THE PEOPLE WHO WERE ESPECIALLY INSTRUMENTAL IN MY FORMATIVE YEARS AND THROUGHOUT MY LIFE.”

These funds enable all, not just some, students to have an equal opportunity to try new things and engage in academic, athletic, music, art, student government, and volunteer activities. These experiences can help to foster life-long learning and hobbies. They also teach students the importance of individual contributions, collaboration and teaming, and leadership skills.

### COULD YOU EXPLAIN THE BASICS OF HOW A MATCHING GRANT WORKS FOR THOSE WHO MIGHT NOT BE AWARE OF SUCH OPPORTUNITIES?

Many companies have a matching grants program that enables employees to double their impact and support organizations within their communities. Active employee donations to eligible charities are matched 1:1 up to a total maximum threshold (e.g., \$10,000) in gifts per donor per calendar year. Eligible charities typically fall into one of these major categories: education (K-12 through universities), health (hospitals, nursing homes, hospices), cultural (museums, libraries), and environmental (wildlife rehabilitation centers, preservation institutions). The employee makes a direct, personal, tax-deductible contribution and then submits a form to their employer for the matching funds. The process is simple and helps those who need it the most!



# THE LIFELONG IMPACT OF A SCASD EDUCATION ●



## DO YOU HAVE ANY UPDATES YOU CAN SHARE WITH US SINCE YOUR PROFILE WAS WRITTEN FOR THE MAROON & GRAY SOCIETY?

One highlight since 2020 includes taking a trip of a lifetime to Africa in January 2023. The trip was a combination mission trip and safari. My church has had a relationship with the Diocese of Mt. Kilimanjaro located in Arusha, Tanzania, since 1988. During this trip, a ribbon-cutting ceremony to open three buildings for teacher housing took place at the Endupoto Primary School. We brought school supplies and soccer balls for the 750 children.



We experienced an abundance of wildlife while on safari in Arusha National Park, Ngorongoro Crater, and an early migration of wildebeest and zebra in the Serengeti National Park. We spotted the big 5 – a pride of 14 lions, leopards, elephants,

water buffalos, and rhinos as well as the ugly 5 – crocodiles, warthogs, wildebeests, hippos, and maribou storks. We were lucky to spot a cheetah in Arusha National Park, an animal not seen there since the 1970s according to our driver.

A second highlight is that I took a new position as an intrapreneurial venture capitalist in the Chief Innovation Office in IBM's Corporate Technical Strategy department in 2022. Our team invests in and collaborates on building innovative proofs-of-concept that leverage AI, hybrid cloud, data, and Internet of Things (IoT) in new ways to solve our clients' business challenges. I have projects in the areas of climate and sustainability, situational awareness, and digital twins for pharmaceutical lab facilities.

## YOU HAD A FULL TABLE OF FRIENDS AT THE 2022 BANQUET—HOW DO YOU AND YOUR STATE HIGH FRIENDS KEEP YOUR FRIENDSHIPS GOING? WHAT DO THESE RELATIONSHIPS MEAN TO YOU?

I am so grateful for the life-long friendships I made at State High. We keep in touch through telephone calls, visits to each other's homes, small group get-togethers, Penn State football games, and high school reunions.

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Jane encourages other donors to look into the opportunity to set up a matching grant or gift for the Education Foundation and change the lives of teachers and students in the State College Area. For more information on giving to the Mardi Lowry McDonough '87 Student Opportunity Fund to help prepare and inspire the next generation, visit [scasdfoundation.org](https://scasdfoundation.org). ●



## ● MARDI LOWRY MCDONOUGH '87 STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES GRANT

### ANOTHER GENEROUS ROUND OF GRANTS BENEFIT STUDENTS

MARDI LOWRY MCDONOUGH '87  
STUDENT OPPORTUNITY FUND SPRING  
GRANT AWARDS TOTAL \$28,300

The spring cycle of the Mardi Lowry McDonough '87 fund awarded more than \$28,000 for projects across the district, thanks to generous support from Education Foundation donors. Here are just a few of the projects making a difference for students!



### STATIONARY BIKES TRANSFORM PHYSICAL ENERGY INTO CREATIVE INSPIRATION

DELTA PROGRAM MIDDLE SCHOOL •  
STATIONARY BIKES • \$600 AWARDED

What does a middle school teacher do with limited resources and students abounding in pre-teen energy? According to teacher Kat Hoffman, the answer for the Delta Program Middle School students lies in accessible exercise. The school is designed around flexibility and community, which gives students and parents the ability to be more involved in their learning programs, and their latest advancement is the installation of stationary bicycles to allow students to stay active and engaged as they complete classwork.

“OUR IDEA IS TO PLACE EXERCISE BIKES  
NEAR OR IN EACH CLASSROOM SO KIDS  
WITH LOTS OF ENERGY CAN WORK  
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READING OR DISCUSSIONS.”

“Our idea is to place exercise bikes near or in each classroom so kids with lots of energy can work some off while doing independent reading or discussions,” said Kat Hoffman, a teacher of Language Arts and Science at Delta. Unlike other means of exercise, stationary bikes are unobtrusive and quiet so they can be used while reading, studying, or working with classmates. The bikes will allow students to get moving

and stay active while improving student engagement.

Grant funds are helping to purchase the bikes one or two at a time. The ultimate goal is for bikes to be present in every classroom for use at any time. The bikes will be available and beneficial for all 135 Delta Middle School students, as well as any Delta High School students who wish to use them.

The bikes will not only let students release energy and stay concentrated, they will also provide opportunities for student involvement and leadership. “Having the bikes will allow us to do things like ride-a-thons to raise money and would also stimulate their brains while getting exercise,” said Kat. “Asking students how to use the bikes, how to allocate the use of the bikes, and how to care for the bikes are also areas for student innovation and creativity.” ●



### GARDEN PROJECT CREATES PROMISING OPPORTUNITIES TO AID ALL STUDENTS IN TRANSITION AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

STATE COLLEGE AREA HIGH  
SCHOOL • TRANSITION WORKFORCE  
DEVELOPMENT & HERB TO TABLE  
PROGRAM • \$500 AWARDED

For high school students with different abilities, programs that pave the way to employability after graduation are key. State High offers many resources to prepare students for the work-





place, but Lydia Everhart foresees a more inclusive program that helps students with disabilities navigate the transition after high school.

"Specifically for those students who are not typically college-able, developing key work skills for competitive and customized employment is vital," she said.

Lydia has been working with Special Education students at State High for over a decade as the Transition Coordinator for the program. "As part of the transition program, we are developing a rotational-transitional-educational scope and sequence," she explained. "It will introduce students to a variety of workforce employment service training that develops skills across a variety of career areas (i.e. greenhouse and plant care, retail style jobs, building maintenance and custodial skills, hospitality services, bakery/kitchen skills)."

In addition to her heart for helping her students, Lydia has a passion for agriculture that has inspired the latest project to help students transition from high school. "For this grant, we want to focus on building and developing the greenhouse and plant care section of the transition program," she said.

The grant will go toward building and implementing special raised-bed gardens accessible for students in and out of wheelchairs, as well as purchasing equipment for internal and external plant care. In addition, Lydia envisions the development of an internship focusing on an Herb to Table program.

"This opportunity would allow students the ability to explore career areas, and grow and learn through hands-on learning and activities," Lydia said. "This project allows students to determine their likes and dislikes and understand the seed-to-table processes and careers that align with each stage of the growth and harvesting process. This also allows for students who are unable to work due to the severity of their disability to gain and develop therapeutic hobbies and increase leisure time activities to work with families and long-term caregivers."

Programs to assist differently-abled students make the transition to employment is more needed now than ever, as Lydia explained. "Individuals with disabilities have a 17.9 percent employment rate from the Department of Labor and Industry 2020 data, which is a decrease from 19.3 percent in 2019," she said. "The ratio for employment for people without a disability was 61.8 percent in 2020, down from 66.3 percent in the prior year. Developing these career-focused transition programs at SCASD will help increase the skill development and employability of our students post-high school."



Photo: Nabil Mark

The greenhouse hopes to break down barriers to student success and create a lasting impact. "This project will also increase students' creativity and their understanding that gardening is not just limited to the ground, but can be mobile and adaptable to various locations and differentiated for individuals of all abilities and need," Lydia said. ●

## ESSENTIAL RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS EXPERIENCING SENSORY OVERLOAD

FERGUSON TOWNSHIP ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL • SWEET SENSORY  
SATISFACTION • \$270 AWARDED

Sensory overload, the fight, flight, or freeze response that many children experience when their senses take in more information than their brain can process, is a growing obstacle for teachers in the classroom setting. "Students in our building are increasingly affected by sensory overstimulation—especially in loud areas," said Kendyl Wittenrich, Autistic and Emotional Support Teacher at Ferguson Township Elementary.

"Things like the fun run, concerts, assemblies, and movement breaks are something we want our students to look forward to, though many dread these times because of the loud noise," she explained.



Continued on Page 12

# MAROON & GRAY SOCIETY

# Celebration







**2024 NOMINATIONS WILL OPEN SOON! WATCH YOUR EMAIL AND SOCIAL MEDIA FOR THE CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2024 MAROON & GRAY SOCIETY!**

## MARDI LOWRY MCDONOUGH '87 STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES GRANT

Even experiences that are essential for student safety can become disruptive. “Students also struggle with fire drills or announcements on the PA system—these are used to keep our students safe and are currently the source of much distress. The purchase of additional sound-canceling headphones will help our students navigate these times,” Kendyl said.

“Students who are experiencing sensory overload are not able to participate in learning activities,” she explained. “Our district has the advantage of being able to offer many hands-on experiences, and in a post-COVID world, trips to provide real-world experiences for our students.”

Noise-canceling headphones are a cost-efficient and effective way to combat the overstimulation of everyday experiences. The grant will purchase 18 sets of these headphones to assist students in distress. Ferguson Township Elementary previously had a few pairs of headphones, but Kendyl saw the need arise as they were unable to support all of their students.

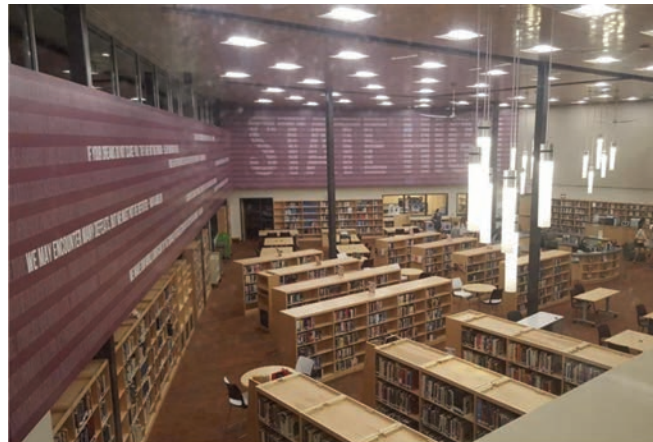
“We currently have 12 students in our school who meet the qualifications for autism—the most common disability affecting students with overstimulation,” said Kendyl. “However, many other students have other needs for sound-canceling headphones as well. This year alone, I’ve provided them to at least 15 different students.”

As the Autistic and Emotional Support Teacher at Ferguson Township Elementary, Kendyl often receives calls to help students experiencing overstimulation. “I would love to have a pair in each classroom so teachers can provide them more quickly than I am able to once I receive a message regarding a student in distress,” she said. ●

### PRESERVING 60 YEARS OF STATE HIGH HISTORY

STATE COLLEGE AREA HIGH SCHOOL  
LIBRARY • ARCHIVING DISTRICT  
YEARBOOK COLLECTION • \$770  
AWARDED

The State High library boasts an extensive collection of resources for students. Librarian Mark Morath is advocating for the archival of some of the school’s rarest materials—yearbooks spanning 60 years of the school’s history. With the help of a grant, State



SCAHS Library

High will preserve pieces of the school’s past.

“To our knowledge, State High’s library houses the only complete set of yearbooks dating back to 1917,” said Mr. Morath. “We identified 60 of those yearbooks that are either in the process of deteriorating or in danger of falling apart. These books currently sit on shelves in one of the library’s small group instruction rooms without consistent climate control or any purposeful protection.”

Mr. Morath believes in the value of preserving physical materials for future generations. “In the age of digital content, holding history in your hand makes a difference,” said Mr. Morath. “Maintaining a collection of yearbooks goes far beyond the added equity of access for students who don’t have them. The yearbook is a time capsule demonstrating over a century of change in America as reflected in the halls of State High.”

Funded by the grant, Mr. Morath and the staff of the library will archive the books with high-quality materials. “The best way to store these books and to preserve them for future use is to store our best copy of each book from 1917-1977 (60 years in total) in an archival polyester-based locking folder and then place them in a Silversafe, lignin, and acid-free box,” Mr. Morath explained. “Once each book is placed in a locking folder, they will be stored with approximately 3 books per box. The boxes are made of MicroChamber board which is an alkaline buffer. The folders protect the books from each other and ensure that they do not acquire damage that could be caused by moving the boxes.”

“The yearbooks have long sourced inspiration to journalism students and the yearbook club as tangible examples of primary source documents that students can understand. Our concern is that if action is not taken to protect these books,



they would be unavailable as an authentic learning experience for our students and as a historical record of our school, district, and community,” he said. ●

## BUDDY ART PROJECT BRINGS TOGETHER STUDENTS OF ALL ABILITIES

MOUNT NITTANY MIDDLE SCHOOL • BUDDY ART • \$350 AWARDED

At Mount Nittany Middle School, sixth grade art teacher Madison Mock received a grant to bring together students for a collaborative art-making experience. Her “Buddy Art” project allows students in the special education programs to team up with peer buddies to create works of art. Students have opportunities to display their artwork around the school as well as at the annual school-wide art show.

“This project allows special education and general education students to collaborate to create a variety of works of art,” said Madison. “The materials allow students to create paintings on canvas and ceramics and create display-ready works of art with high-quality materials for display.”

“Peer buddies is an excellent opportunity for special education and general education students to work together,” continued Madison. “This project adds value to these peer interactions by providing students with opportunities to work with a greater variety of art materials and create lasting artwork.” ●



The 2023 Art Show at Mount Nittany Middle School on May 9 (photo: Mount Nittany Middle School)



## GRANT FUNDS PROVIDE FULL EMT CERTIFICATION FOR UP TO 5 STUDENTS

SCHS/CTC • EMT CERTIFICATION • DR. JENNIFER REED

Dr. Jennifer Reed, along with other instructors at State High, recognized a need for a number of students to proceed to EMT certification after their CTC coursework. “Students have expressed interest in earning industry credentials and working in the community as health care providers. To do this, they must spend evenings and weekends completing a local intensive EMT training course and pass a national written and hands-on exam,” said Dr. Reed.

While most students are ready to commit extra time to complete the course, the financial burden can weigh on some. “Cost is often a barrier despite the students’ willingness to do this training on top of school,” explained Dr. Reed. Grant funds were awarded to support up to five students in completing their EMT certification.

“The grant will go toward juniors and seniors in either the Health Professions or Sports Therapy programs that want to become an EMT to serve the public and accrue required hands-on hours to gain admission down the road to medical school or to physician assistant programs,” said Dr. Reed. “The funds cover the required fees to participate in the course upon them providing evidence of enrollment from Centre Life Link or an area training center licensed to provide the course.”

“There are three HP/STES instructors that have identified at least four students, potentially five that are in progress or planning to begin this program,” said Dr. Reed. Through the grant-supported program, those five students will be entering the workforce upon graduation and making a difference in their community. ●



## MOUNT NITTANY HEALTH PROVIDES ATHLETIC TRAINING TO SCASD STUDENT-ATHLETES

Did you know Mount Nittany Health Orthopedics provides comprehensive athletic training support to SCASD? The athletic trainers are on-site every day to reduce the risk of injury for the athletes they serve, and when an injury does occur, they immediately assess, treat, and refer injuries for specialized care.

After an injury, athletic trainers help rehabilitate athletes and get them back to the sport, work, and life they love. Athletic trainers impact health care through intentional, patient centered, compassionate action.

“ATHLETIC TRAINERS WORK CLOSELY WITH MOUNT NITTANY HEALTH SPORTS MEDICINE PHYSICIANS AND MOUNT NITTANY HEALTH’S FIT FOR PLAY TO PROVIDE COLLABORATIVE, PERSONALIZED CARE PLANS.”

Away from the playing field, athletic trainers work closely with Mount Nittany Health Sports Medicine physicians and Mount Nittany Health’s Fit for Play to provide collaborative, personalized care plans. Ultimately, the key to treating sports injuries is avoiding them.

One area of concern is concussions. The overall number of high school sports injuries has declined, but the total number of concussions has grown by 87%. Athletes can sustain concussions in any sport. Some high impact sports, like football, account for a more significant proportion of current concussion rates than others. Still, soccer, baseball, softball, and volleyball all have concussion risks. These risks increase during competition when players play harder than they do during practice.

### MOUNT NITTANY HEALTH OFFERS CONCUSSION PROTOCOL PROGRAM

Athletic trainers are also critical in identifying and caring for athletes with concussions or other injuries. Mount Nittany Health provides a detailed [concussion protocol](#) for student athletes that streamlines the treatment process to ensure a safe and timely return to play.

High school coaches and athletes have become more aware of the seriousness of concussions and proactively work to prevent them. They do things like include low-impact drills, half-speed practices, and teaching athletes to roll properly when tripped or not to lead with their heads when tackling.

Sports are ingrained in our local culture. Athletic Trainers play a critical role in preventing, assessing, and treating sports injuries. Before you get sidelined with an injury, make sure you consult with an athletic trainer.

“ATHLETIC TRAINERS PLAY A CRITICAL ROLE IN PREVENTING, ASSESSING, AND TREATING SPORTS INJURIES. BEFORE YOU GET SIDELINED WITH AN INJURY, MAKE SURE YOU CONSULT WITH AN ATHLETIC TRAINER.”

Mount Nittany Health offers sports medicine at two locations – in State College and Spring Mills. If you or your student-athlete needs a sports medicine orthopedic provider, contact Mount Nittany Health Orthopedics at 814.237.4321 or visit [mountnittany.org/orthopedics](http://mountnittany.org/orthopedics).

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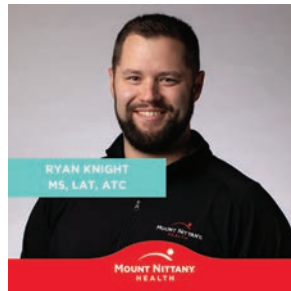
## GET TO KNOW MOUNT NITTANY HEALTH'S TEAM OF DEDICATED ATHLETIC TRAINERS!

### Ryan Knight, MS, LAT, ATC

Ryan Knight is a certified athletic trainer with extensive experience in sports medicine. Ryan earned his bachelor's degree in athletic training from Liberty University and his master's degree in Sport Psychology from Lock Haven University.

According to Ryan, "Athletics and a desire to serve young athletes in the community has always been the driving force behind my passion for the athletic training profession."

He is a member of the National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA) and the Pennsylvania Athletic Trainers' Society (PATS).



### Daniel Chase, MS, LAT, ATC

Daniel's professional career began at Penns Valley Area School District after earning his master's degree in Human Performance from Frostburg State University. Daniel also holds a bachelor's degree in Sports Medicine: Athletic Training from Mercyhurst University.

For Daniel, building strong relationships with his athletes is essential to providing quality care, "Mount Nittany Health's mission of Healthier People, Stronger Community drew me to my current position," he said.

Daniel is a member of the National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA) and a member of the Pennsylvania Athletic Trainers' Society (PATS).



### Lauren Damiano, MS, LAT, ATC

Lauren Damiano is a dedicated athletic trainer who has been making a difference in State College Area School District student athletes' lives.

With a Bachelor of Science degree in Health Science, with a concentration in Pre-Physical Therapy and Psychology from Lock Haven University, Lauren has always been interested in working with athletes to help them overcome physical and mental obstacles.

"Athletic training is a profession unlike any other. Athletic trainers have the ability to help an athlete from the moment the injury happens on the field, through potential surgery and rehabilitation, to when they finally return to their sport."



### Maeve McFeely, MS, LAT, ATC

Maeve McFeely is a dedicated athletic trainer who has been making a difference in State College Area School District student athletes' lives.

With a Bachelor of Science in Athletic Training from The Pennsylvania State University and a Master of Science in Athletic Training from Ohio University, Maeve is well-equipped with the knowledge and skills to help athletes overcome injuries and achieve their goals.

"Athletic training provides me with the great opportunity to help student-athletes through injuries and different obstacles in their athletic careers. It is amazing to see them push through those obstacles and succeed,"



Sponsored by:





**State College Area School District  
EDUCATION FOUNDATION**

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NEWS AND NOTES ON  
HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT  
SCASD STUDENTS

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Visit [www.scasdfoundation.org](http://www.scasdfoundation.org) and find the form on the homepage.

## MAKE A GIFT IN 2023

Create new opportunities for students by making a donation to the Education Foundation online at  
[www.scasdfoundation.org](http://www.scasdfoundation.org).