

State College Area School District Education
FOUNDATION



**WORTH THE WAIT:
CELEBRATING THE
MAROON & GRAY SOCIETY
CLASS OF 2020**

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DR. O'DONNELL**
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● FROM THE FOUNDATION BOARD

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2022



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.

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The official registration and financial information of State College Area School District Education Foundation may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1 (800) 732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.



Maroon & Gray Society Class of 2020. Accepting for the Late Ron Pavlechko, his grandchildren Lauren and Nicholas: Four members of the 1976 State Champion Soccer team Coaches Ken Fogleman, Donn Wagner, <name> and Team Member Denis DeMartino: Jane Snowdon '77, Deputy Chief Science Officer, Science Operations, IBM Watson Health: Accepting for Retired Educator Joyce Lee, Melinda Cocolin: Rudy Burruss (back row), Special Education Paraprofessional, PA State Education Association, ESP Region President: Masi Asare '96, Tony Award-nominated composer: Mark Roland '91, U.S. Army Special Forces (back row): Michelle Frisco, SCASD Education Foundation President: Dr. Robert J. O'Donnell, Superintendent (back row)

TWO YEARS LATE AND WORTH THE WAIT!

MAROON & GRAY SOCIETY CLASS OF 2020 FINALLY INDUCTED AT 2022 DINNER

After a two-year pandemic hiatus, the Maroon & Gray Society Dinner was finally held on May 21, with friends and family in attendance to honor the 2020 inductees as well as the namesake of the dinner's beneficiary, the Mardi Lowry McDonough '87 Student Opportunity Fund & Grant Program.

Short videos honored the achievements of each attendee, highlighting their contributions to the district and to their professional fields. Likewise, friends and colleagues of Mardi shared memories of her impact on students and fellow educators.

“THIS EVENT IS SUCH A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY TO RECOGNIZE THE ENTIRE SCHOOL COMMUNITY, FROM ALUMNI AND FORMER EDUCATORS TO THE MANY GENEROUS DONORS WHO SUPPORT TODAY'S STUDENTS...”

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● MAROON & GRAY SOCIETY

The State High Master Singers entertained the crowd with a short a cappella program.

In all, thanks to sponsors, advertisers and individual donations, proceeds totaled \$25,000 which will help to fund teacher-led innovation in schools across the district.

“This event is such a wonderful opportunity to recognize the entire school community, from alumni and former educators to the many generous donors who support today’s students through the Education Foundation’s programs and funds,” said Board President Michelle Frisco. “We are hopeful that the event will not only continue for many years, but that it will also grow into a chance for alumni, teachers, coaches, families and community members to celebrate the impact of our district and our schools.” ●



Jane Snowdon '77



Paul Olivett, Executive Director



Mark Roland '91, Grandchildren of the late Ron Pavlechko, Lauren and Nicholas

CLASS OF 2020

Dr. Joyce Lee
Retired Educator

Thomas Gentzel '69
*Retired Executive Director & CEO,
National School Board Association*

The Late Ron Pavlechko
Educator & Coach

Mark Roland '91
U.S. Army Special Forces

Dr. Jane Snowdon '77
*Associate Chief Health Officer,
Center for Artificial Intelligence,
Research & Evaluation, IBM
Watson Health*

Masi Asare '96
A Rising Leader in Theatre

Rudy Burruss
*Special Education Paraprofessional,
Basketball Coach,
PA State Education Association,
ESP Region President*

1976 State Champion Boys
Soccer Team

MAROON & GRAY SOCIETY ●



Team Member Denis DeMartino, Coach Donn Wagner & Head Coach Ken Fogleman



Dr. O'Donnell



Rudy Burruss and Masi Asare '96



Vice President Mary Kay Montovino '73 and President Michelle Frisco



● MAROON & GRAY SOCIETY



THANK YOU SPONSORS & ADVERTISERS

Jane L. Snowdon '77
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● NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR THE MAROON & GRAY SOCIETY CLASS OF 2023.
MAKE YOUR NOMINATION AT SCASDFOUNDATION.ORG.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

A MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS UPDATE FOR 2022-23

When teachers and administrators sounded the alarm about mental health needs among students, community support launched the Mental Health Matters Fund, giving schools the fuel to take action for the well-being of students.

Since then, donor support has made an impact on students in every grade at every school across the district. The community has been a key partner in this effort.

Together, we've helped our educators and schools put a clear focus on mental health. Now, we must maintain the positive momentum we've built.

To help start the 2022- 23



school year strong on mental health you can make a gift to the Mental Health Matters Fund at scasdfoundation.org.

Here's how your support makes a difference:

- Important professional development that provides tools and strategies to use in the classroom
- Curriculum that incorporates mental health into everyday learning
- A stronger partnership with Penn State to increase the school-based services available to students
- Collaboration with community organizations like the Jana Marie Foundation to introduce new programs and resources to students
- Direct support for services not covered by insurance or when families lack resources to access it.

Thank you for making this progress possible and for your ongoing commitment to our students, educators and schools. You are funding life-changing programs for the upcoming school year. ●

Recently, Mount Nittany Medical Center Behavioral Health partnered with a group of State College Area High School students to provide behavioral health bags for patients of the Behavioral Health Unit.

Behavioral health bags are self-care packages delivered in drawstring bags that include eye masks, journals, fidget toys, a snack, and a thoughtful letter.

"I believe these care packages will be well received by our patients," said Tina Kephart, RN and manager of the Behavioral Health Unit at Mount Nittany Medical Center. "They will be bags of support and encouragement for discharged patients to take home with them to help with the post-hospital transition."

A team of State College Area



High School students led by Hamna Ahmad and Mike Guo developed the idea and presented it to Kephart. The intended impact of this project is to "leave patients with a spark of positivity," wrote Ahmad and Guo in an email about this project.

The students brought together a team of students to write patient letters, fundraise, assemble, and deliver the bags to Mount Nittany Medical Center. The students plan to expand this project to other mental health programs in State College.

Mount Nittany Medical Center's behavioral health services provide short-term, inpatient care for adults in acute behavioral health crises.

FAREWELL DR. O'DONNELL

BEST WISHES TO DR. BOB O'DONNELL AND HIS FAMILY AS HE TAKES ON THE SUPERINTENDENT ROLE AT DOWNINGTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT.

As superintendent of SCASD for 11 years, Dr. O'Donnell boasts many accomplishments, among them fulfilling the vision for a thriving Education Foundation to support students and educators with 'beyond the budget' funding. Under his leadership, the Education Foundation was conceived and launched in 2014 and has since become an important funding source for many projects, including mental health initiatives, pandemic-related emergency funds for families and the renovation of Memorial Field.



Dr. O'Donnell

In addition, the Education Foundation has awarded nearly \$100,000 in grant funds to teachers and coaches through the Mardi Lowry McDonough '87 Student Opportunity Fund & Grant Program.

“ON BEHALF OF OUR CURRENT BOARD AND PAST MEMBERS, I OFFER MY MOST SINCERE THANKS TO BOB FOR BEING AN UNWAVERING CHAMPION FOR THE EDUCATION FOUNDATION AND FOR HELPING TO MAKE AN IMPORTANT IMPACT ON CURRENT AND FUTURE STUDENTS.”

As the Education Foundation took shape, Dr. O'Donnell helped to rally its volunteer board of directors around emerging priorities across the district, identifying key opportunities to impact students. For example, the first Maroon & Gray

Society banquet raised more than \$50,000 toward the purchase of new band uniforms while the second event raised \$50,000 to create the Mental Health Matters Fund, which supports critical mental health and well-being programs for students and teachers.

“On behalf of our current board and past members, I offer my most sincere thanks to Bob for being an unwavering champion for the Education Foundation and for helping to make an important impact on current and future students,” said Education Foundation President Michelle Frisco. “His support and commitment have helped the organization to grow and thrive.”

Mr. Curtis Johnson, our assistant superintendent for secondary education, will serve as interim superintendent. Mr. Johnson is highly qualified and experienced for the role, and he has a deep commitment to our district and its students. Throughout his 19 years with the State College Area School District, he has consistently supported students' academic and social-emotional growth. Since last year, he has served as the assistant superintendent of secondary schools, working closely with the outgoing superintendent, Dr. Robert O'Donnell, and our district administrative team.

Prior to serving as assistant superintendent, Mr. Johnson was the head principal of State College Area High School for five years after one year as interim principal and 10 years in other leadership roles at the high school. As the head principal, he steered a campus of 2,400 students through the massive 4-year State High building project. When the COVID-19 pandemic struck, he again ably led students, faculty and staff as they coped with hybrid learning, health and safety measures, and other challenges. ●



Mr. Curtis Johnson



IB Cord recipients Class of 2022

“INCREDIBLE, INSPIRING & FULFILLING”

STATE HIGH OFFERS INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE PROGRAM AND COURSES FOR 11TH & 12TH GRADES

A NEW SCHOLARSHIP FUND HAS BEEN STARTED TO MAKE SURE THE PROGRAM'S ASSESSMENTS ARE ACCESSIBLE TO ALL INTERESTED STUDENTS.

“The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. To this end the organization works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment. These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.”

When you consider world and national events, the mission statement of the **International Baccalaureate (IB)** sounds more relevant and important than ever. State High is

“FOR MANY OF THE STUDENTS, THEY LOVE THE SMALLER COMMUNITY THEY FEEL WITHIN LARGER HIGH SCHOOL. THE PROGRAM HAS DEDICATED TEACHERS WHO SHARE CLASSES WITH SAME GROUP OF STUDENTS, SO THEY BECOME A TIGHT KNIT LEARNING COMMUNITY.”

● SUCCESS FOR EVERY STUDENT

approaching five years as an authorized IB World School—one of only 23 in Pennsylvania and the only one in our area—offering the Diploma Programme. The Education Foundation helped to fund its launch through donor contributions to Pennsylvania’s Educational Improvement Tax Credit program.

“THE RELATIONSHIPS STUDENTS BUILD WITH EACH OTHER AND THEIR TEACHERS ARE SIGNIFICANT. THESE RELATIONSHIPS STEM FROM STRIVING FOR LEARNING AND STRIVING FOR GROWTH.”

Jennifer Schreiber, Ed.D., International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme Coordinator/Theory of Knowledge and Latin Teacher, said administrators began to explore the program and found there was interest among students and families. Now, two cohorts have graduated from the program in 2021 and 2022.



IB Students handing out You Matter Stickers

“Because of the pandemic, IB is not as well-known as it might otherwise have been, but students who participate are finding a lot of success,” Jennifer said. “For many of the students, they love the smaller community they feel within larger high school. The program has dedicated teachers who share classes with same group of students, so they become a tight knit learning community. It builds relationships among teachers and peers.”

“The relationships students build with each other and their teachers are significant. These relationships stem from striving for learning and striving for growth,” said Veronica Iacobazzo, 11th & 12th-grade English Teacher and IB Extended Essay Supervisor and Theory of Knowledge Teacher.

The IB World School offers curriculum to students all over the world with a global focus and a style of learning that Jennifer describes as being more student-driven and inquiry-based, giving students more agency over their experience.

“IB offers a different style of learning and while it’s advanced like AP courses, it’s more focused on individual student growth and exploration of content,” Jennifer said. “College credits are available through testing, but the program assesses students differently and showcases learning in a variety of ways.”

“IT GIVES STUDENTS AN OPPORTUNITY TO DIG DEEPER INTO SOMETHING THEY ENJOY FROM AN ACADEMIC PERSPECTIVE.”

There are six categories of curriculum within the program, and State High has teachers trained by IB in each category to deliver in-person instruction. Plus, each course includes inquiry-based learning that allows students to select a research project designed to explore their own interests and passions connected to academics.

“It gives students an opportunity to dig deeper into something they enjoy from an academic perspective,” according to Jennifer. “For example, I’ve had two students who are dancers complete the project by exploring different aspects of dance. Other students have focused on areas like film and philosophy.”

“IB inspires students to take action in their learning and community,” Veronica said. “Many of our students are leaders

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INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE PROGRAM... *Continued from page 5*

outside of the classroom. Most recently the diploma students channeled their energy into the You Matter campaign organized by the SCASD libraries. In our first year, students rallied with Clearwater Conservancy to promote environmental wellness for the Chesapeake Watershed.”

“In addition, students develop strong academic habits that they will need at the university-level,” Veronica continued. “For two years, students must think critically and internationally, and read and write extensively in all disciplines. They learn how to manage stress and time in a supportive environment.”

Students can sign up for the full program or take IB courses a la carte. For the upcoming year, 17 students are enrolled in the full diploma program and around 100 will take IB courses. Like AP courses, there is a fee to take the assessments for credit, which can total \$700 for students doing the full program. A scholarship fund has been established through the Education Foundation to make sure the opportunity is available regardless of a student’s financial circumstances.

Contributions can be made online at scasdfoundation.org.

A PARENT PERSPECTIVE

“Sydney has always been a confident young lady. She’s always done well with time management due to years of competitive dance. We feel these are two qualities that made her successful in this IB program. Watching her navigate her 11th and 12th grade years were amazing. She thoroughly enjoyed discussing her schoolwork with us. We had more in-depth conversations about her studies than any time previously. These two years of IB seem to have awakened her senses and expanded her knowledge in topics never discussed before.

During her first semester of college she took a communications class. Her professor gave them a topic to discuss the first 15 minutes of each class. Our daughter had no problem being the first to raise her hand. After a few days the professor knew our daughter by name. After a few classes, a young woman walked up to her and asked her how is it that she is so confident in speaking and no fear in giving her opinion. Our daughter explained that she took IB classes which required much discussion in class. Our daughter said her IB classes taught her to be a better listener and to be open to others’ comments, ideas and opinions.

“We witnessed profound growth in not only Sydney’s desire to learn and engage with school but also in her ability to critically think. We saw tremendous improvement in her writing skills. While fully immersed in the IB program, we saw a significant change in her enthusiasm and interest in her classes. The IB Program broadened her thinking and writing skills beyond that of the traditional high school experience. We believe the experiences and skills she acquired in IB made her college transition go smoothly.”

-Deb and Steve Dynan



Ben and Dayo

IB ALUMNI TESTIMONIALS

“IB allowed me to connect with a lot of people at William and Mary where I attend college. For example, my roommate Yagnik studied in India at an IB school. We had very similar experiences despite taking IB classes thousands of miles apart. I was also able to go into college with a lot of my elective credits taken care of. Not only did this allow me to focus on the classes I was most interested in, now it’s also likely that I will graduate early which is a huge financial benefit for my family as well.”

-Casey Wible

● SUCCESS FOR EVERY STUDENT

“For me, learning is all about asking questions. To an extent, every classroom embraces question asking but IB goes above and beyond. This encouragement of inquiry is baked into the curriculum. In every class, students research a topic that interests them and write an extensive paper on the subject. While working on my physics inquiry, for example, I designed and 3d printed a custom test rig to test how a spring behaves when stretched over a cylinder. Not only was this inquiry unique (there was no published literature with insight on the problem) it was a question that I was asking and genuinely curious about, not a prewritten lab assigned to me.

“MY EXPERIENCE IB WAS NOTHING SHORT OF INCREDIBLE, INSPIRING, AND FULFILLING.”

In each class, the teachers went out of their way to create an environment where inquiry thrived. In math, a class I thought of as incredibly rigid with set lesson plans, my teacher let me spend more time on the sections of the syllabus that I was most curious about. In Latin, we often stopped translation to discuss how ancient and modern issues intersect. The program gives both students *and* teachers the opportunity to inquire. For me, that opportunity has led me to discover knowledge about the world and myself I would have learned nowhere else, and I know it has for my classmates, too!”

-Tate Geiger

“My experience IB was nothing short of incredible, inspiring, and fulfilling. One of the most gratifying experiences was becoming close to my small cohort of peers and teachers. It was exciting to see all my friends who were just as passionate about learning as I was. Becoming close to the teachers made me more comfortable asking questions I would have been too scared to ask before and allowed me to feel more comfortable asking for help and support. The most defining factor of my enrollment in IB was the confidence I gained. Only with the assistance, patience, and dedication of Jen Schreiber and my IB teachers was I able to finally feel self-assured and assertive with what I knew, what I was learning, and where I wanted to go with my education.

I know that IB has set me up for success in college. After completing my first year of college, and observing what

college classes, assignments, and assessments look like, I can confidently say that I have more tools, skills, and knowledge thanks to IB. More importantly, within IB I gained a love for knowledge and for continuously learning throughout my life. As I continue to study Spanish Education, I think about how taking IB courses will affect my future in teaching. The IB profile is a perfect example of the qualities I want to have as a teacher/lifelong learner, as well as the qualities I want to teach to my students.

When beginning IB, students are overwhelmed with a list of everything they need to complete in the following two years. Extended essays, Internal assessments, Individual oral assessments, etc. The ongoing list of expectations was scary. However, over the course of two years, I had the unconditional support of teachers to help explain, encourage and inspire me to push through and do the best work possible. When it came time to graduate, I looked back on this long list and realized I really was capable of doing it, and all the nerves and fear were conquered. It took grit, dedication, and some healthy stress, but that was exactly what I needed. Now, in college, when I look at a class syllabus and read all of the hefty assignments, papers, and assessments for the upcoming semester, I don't become fearful or panic, I simply remind myself of all that I was able to accomplish in IB and that if I use the same skills I acquired then, I am going to be just fine.”

-Sydney Dynan ●



Ann and Tio painting



READY FOR THEIR NEXT ADVENTURE

THE CLASS OF 2022 ENJOYED ITS GRADUATION CEREMONY AT MEMORIAL FIELD. ENJOY THESE GREAT SHOTS THAT SHOWCASE THE SPECTACULAR OUTDOOR VENUE!



ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES

Steve Brame '92 has been named president & CEO of the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association (PREA) and Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc. after serving as the organization's VP of public affairs & member services. Before joining PREA/Allegheny in 2001 as the manager of state government relations, Brame served as special assistant to then-Lt. Gov. Mark Schweiker. Brame is also a member of the board of directors of the Center for Rural Pennsylvania, where he serves as treasurer, and the Pennsylvania Rural Development Council. He earned a bachelor's degree in political science and government from Penn State University and completed the Executive Leadership Program at the Saïd Business School of the University of Oxford. Brame lives in Linglestown, Dauphin County.



TWO STATE HIGH ALUMNI NOMINATED FOR TONY AWARDS

Congratulations to Masi Asare '96 on her TONY AWARD NOMINATION for Best Original Score for Paradise Square! And to Erin Gioia Albrecht stage manager for A Strange Loop, which won the TONY AWARD for Best Musical!



Erin Gioia Albrecht second from left.

CLASS OF 2002 CELEBRATES IN STATE COLLEGE

Love this photo from the class of 2002's recent reunion! Submit your reunion photos to jodie@scasdfoundation.org.



Masi Asare second from left.

THE LIFELONG IMPACT OF A SCASD EDUCATION ●

GET INVOLVED



MAROON & GRAY SOCIETY NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN FOR CLASS OF 2023

Each year, the Maroon and Gray Society recognizes alumni in key areas such as business, the arts, academics and athletics, along with standout school groups and retired faculty. Induction is a permanent mark of distinction for those who have made an extraordinary impact on the lives of students and families within the community or in their own communities and professional fields.

Do you know someone who should be considered for this meaningful recognition? Submit your nomination at scasdfoundation.org.

SHARE YOUR MEMORIES AND CONNECT WITH FRIENDS

Alumni achievements, experiences and memories are an important part of the State High experiences--we want to hear yours! Did sports have a big impact on your high school days? Were you part of the band, choir or other music ensemble where you made lifelong friends? Did a favorite teacher encourage you in your life or career?

Share your State High stories today in this short but important survey designed exclusively for our alumni. We'll share responses in upcoming issues.

Take the survey here: [LINK]

PLANNING A REUNION OR HAVE NEWS TO SHARE? LET US KNOW!

To share details about your upcoming class reunion or other news of interest to State High alumni, email us! We'll share it online and on the State High Alumni Facebook page (facebook.com/statehighalumni or @statehighalumni).

Just email jodie@scasdfoundation.org. You can also request your class email list for news and announcements.





State College Area School District
EDUCATION FOUNDATION

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THANK YOU

THE SCASD EDUCATION FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS OFFERS ITS SINCERE THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO ATTENDED AND SPONSORED THE MAROON & GRAY SOCIETY DINNER, TO THE HONOREES, TO THE FAMILY OF MARDI LOWRY MCDONOUGH '87, AND TO ALL THE ALUMNI AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS WHO SUPPORT THE ORGANIZATION'S WORK TO MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT ON STUDENTS.

BE PART OF THE FOUNDATION

NEWS AND NOTES ON
HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT
SCASD STUDENTS

If you enjoy seeing how students and teachers are benefiting from your support for the Education Foundation, add your name and email to our mailing list!

In addition to the FOUNDATION magazine, the Foundation keeps in touch with donors and friends through a monthly email featuring stories, photos and news on upcoming events. Complete the form on the Foundation's website to make sure you're on the list.

Visit www.scasdfoundation.org and find the form on the homepage.

MAKE A GIFT IN 2022-23

Create new opportunities for students by making a donation to the Education Foundation online at www.scasdfoundation.org.