

# FOUNDATION

*10 years of donor impact*

**Reputation of Success:  
Donors Extend  
District's Funding**

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**Planting Seeds  
for the Future**

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# From the **Foundation Board**

## SCASD Education Foundation Board Members

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### Contact Us

#### SCASD Education Foundation

240 Villa Crest Drive, State College, PA 16801

814-883-8067 | [www.scasdfoundation.org](http://www.scasdfoundation.org)

Paul Olivett: [pgo11@scasd.org](mailto:pgo11@scasd.org)

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.

## State College Area School District **Education Foundation**

Est. 2015

*10 years of donor impact*



SCASD Education Foundation Board

**THANK YOU!** The Education Foundation is grateful to Nabil Mark at SCASD for the beautiful photos that appear in this issue of the magazine.

## 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.



## Enhancing the Longstanding Reputation of Success

### Donors Extend District's Funding to Help Students Thrive: Celebrating 10 Years of Partnerships & Impact

***“Students come first, and the little things can make a big difference. Whether it’s involvement in a club, enrollment in a class tailored to specific interests, or access to mental health resources, some of our students’ most critical growth occurs outside of core classes.”***

That’s how the Education Foundation was introduced in its first ever magazine in 2016. After broad input from stakeholders, the district established a 501(c)3 non-profit to raise extra funds for student support beyond the regular budget.

To district’s longstanding reputation of excellence for positioning kids for success through innovative learning opportunities, both in and out of the classroom, was a cornerstone of the foundation. Every stakeholder audience agreed in the tremendous value of strong public schools that offer a vast network of extracurricular clubs, innovative tools, developmental resources, and hands-on learning opportunities that enhance students’ educational experience.

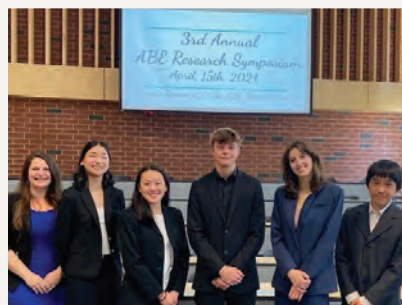
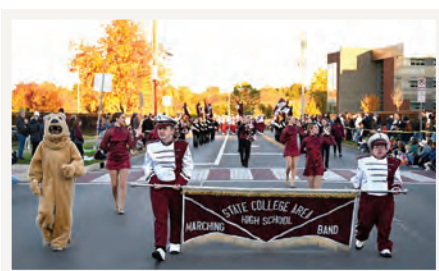
In the decade since its founding, the foundation—led by a volunteer board of directors made up of parents, former educators and administrators, alumni and community members— has held firm to its original goals:

- The impact of donations will be broad and far-reaching, creating opportunities for donors to benefit more students.
- Donations will support all schools within the district, impacting students in K-12, and is not limited to funding specific programs or activities.
- The foundation will be open to advancing any curriculum area as well as programs outside the classroom, such as extracurricular activities and important initiatives focused on student health and well-being.
- The use of donations to the SCASD Education Foundation will be immediate, making it possible to support a variety of projects that are initiated and funded during the course of each year. (In fact, the foundation was formally created in November 2015 and funded its first project in January 2016, working with faculty and students at the South Building to maximize usable study space in the midst of the construction project.)
- The impact of donations to the SCASD Education Foundation will focus on top priorities, working with students and faculty, along with district and school administrators, to identify areas of greatest need where opportunities exist to make significant gains.

***“Students come first,*** and the little things can make a big difference. Whether it’s involvement in a club, enrollment in a class tailored to specific interests, or access to mental health resources, some of our students’ most critical growth occurs outside of core classes.”



With more than \$3 million raised and put to work over the past ten years, donors have proven that the students in our public schools are worth the investment. THANK YOU!



## Your Foundation Refresher

Whether you're a consistent donor, or just read about our success, here are some answers to some of the most commonly asked questions about the Education Foundation.

### Why do we need a Foundation?

Year after year, the district faces growing budget demands. Funds raised by the Education Foundation help preserve and enhance the critical resources that our students count on—high-quality academics, extracurricular and co-curricular activities, exceptional learning environments, and special electives and programs.

### Aren't taxes enough?

The Education Foundation exists to **supplement** the district's tax base by encouraging voluntary donations that stay in our local schools, directly and swiftly benefiting current students through life-changing initiatives not covered in the operating budget.

### How do students benefit?

Donations impact all students in the district by supporting programs inside and outside the classroom, upgrading materials, equipment and learning spaces, covering field trips and extracurricular activities, supporting critical mental health programs, and more. Teachers, administrators, and students can recommend and select areas of need, giving them a voice in shaping the educational experience, and grants are awarded directly through the Mardi Lowry McDonough '87 Student Opportunity Fund & Grant Program.

### I don't have a student in the district.

#### Why should I give?

A high-quality educational system benefits the whole community. Strong schools attract new businesses and residents, strengthening the community and local economy, and owning a home within our successful school district increases your property value. And your generosity models strong leadership and sets an example of community involvement that helps shape students into good citizens and community members.



## Where does my money go?

Gifts to the SCASD Education Foundation directly impact students in every school within our district through programs and projects identified by our educators, administrators and students. The Education Foundation is an independent 501(c)3 non-profit organization and gifts are tax-deductible.

## Who decides where my donation goes?

**You do!** Donors can contribute to a variety of funds, available on the website at [scasdfoundation.org](http://scasdfoundation.org), to ensure that their support goes toward something they care about, such as academics, music, extracurricular activities, student mental health and other areas. Students, teachers, and administrators provide priorities for creating funds, and teachers submit proposals to receive grant funding. The volunteer board of directors works to fund as many proposals as possible through spring and fall funding cycles.

## How can I give?

You can make a one-time donation anytime throughout the year at [scasdfoundation.org](http://scasdfoundation.org) or through one of our direct mail solicitations. You can also set up a recurring monthly donation on the website. The State College Area School District Education Foundation is registered as a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Gifts to the Education Foundation are tax deductible up to the amount outlined by IRS regulations for charitable contributions.

## Can I give stocks or leave a gift in my will?

Yes. For more information on stock transfers or planned giving, contact Paul Olivett at [paul@scasdfoundation.org](mailto:paul@scasdfoundation.org). Planned giving is a priority area for the foundation over the next five to ten years.



## PAST PRESIDENTS STRIVE TO LEAVE A LEGACY FOR STUDENTS WITH MATCHING OPPORTUNITY

### *Michelle Frisco Launches Fund to Boost Support for Grants to Educators*

**The Presidents Fund is currently offering a 25% match on all gifts to the Mardi Lowry McDonough '87 Student Opportunity Fund & Grant program.**

As her time volunteering for the Education Foundation Board comes to a close, founding board member and past board president Michelle Frisco knows she and her fellow volunteer leaders have made a difference simply by showing up—collaborating with district representatives on providing funding for areas of greatest need; meeting with community members to share the foundation's mission; reviewing and selecting grant proposals; helping to choose the annual inductees into the Maroon & Gray Society; and much more.

Even with years of service to the nonprofit she helped to establish, Frisco wanted to do something more. "For ten years, I've been working to help the foundation grow; before I step down from my board position, I want to make sure I walk the talk and take a leadership role as a donor," she said.

Frisco and her husband Steve Savitski have two children: Ian graduated from State High in '23 and is starting his junior year at Penn State; Katherine will be a sophomore at State High in 2025-26. They value the exceptional academic experiences their kids enjoyed in the district as well as the opportunities they pursued in extracurricular activities and athletics.

*"State College Area School District is one of the bulwarks of this community I love. It will*

*remain among the great honors of my life to have helped start and lead the Foundation that supports the teachers and students of Happy Valley."* —Chris Buchignani



# The Presidents Fund

*“As a lifelong resident, alum, and 40+ year employee of SCASD, I was thrilled to serve as a SCASD Foundation Board member after I retired. It became a perfect way for me to give back to the school district that provided my husband, my children, and me with an excellent education and a career that I loved! With the generosity of our community, funds are raised to provide enrichment activities and services to students across all grade levels.”* —Mary Kay Montovino



“We are fortunate that our kids have been part of such a high-quality school district that prioritizes student opportunities both inside and outside the classroom,” Frisco said. “Without the foundation, the district was already strong. It’s been incredibly meaningful for me as a parent to contribute to expanding that success through foundation funding, especially in areas like mental health and the grant program. Making a significant financial contribution was the next logical step as I finish my time on the board, and I suspected other past presidents would be interested in joining me, especially in the 10th anniversary year.”

Frisco and Savitski, as well as every past president and board member, have been consistent annual donors to the Education Foundation since it began. In fact, most board members give multiple times a year, supporting the Maroon & Gray Celebration, Centre Gives, and contributing to various foundation funds. Frisco approached the past presidents about ramping up their support.

“I had already decided to launch the fund with a \$10,000 gift in honor of the 10th anniversary and all the past presidents were eager and excited to join me,” she said.

The President’s Fund is currently offering a matching opportunity for contributions to the Mardi Lowry McDonough ’87 Student Opportunity Fund & Grant program, in which it will extend gifts by 25%. For example, a gift of \$100 becomes \$125 with the President’s Fund match.

“We continue to see growing interest in the grant program among our educators across all schools in the district,” Frisco said. “In fact, we’re now receiving proposals for more than we can fund. Our goal is to shore up the funding that’s available so we can help make more of those proposals a reality.”

**To take advantage of the 25% match from the Presidents Fund, give online at [scasdfoundation.org](http://scasdfoundation.org) by selecting the Mardi Lowry McDonough ’87 Student Opportunity Fund from the campaign drop down menu. Your support will benefit students in the 2025-26 school year.**



Michelle Frisco with her husband Steve Savitski and their children, Katherine and Ian.



Current President Duane Bullock (second from left), with past presidents Doug Loviscky, Michelle Frisco, Mary Kay Montovino and Chris Buchignani.

*“I am proud to have been a founding member* of the SCASD Education Foundation and have continued to serve on the board because we can contribute our donors’ funds directly to the district quickly and efficiently to enrich the learning opportunities for students in every school.” —Doug Loviscky



# Planting Seeds for the Future:

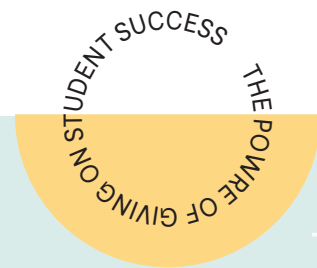
## The Power of Planned Giving on Student Success

In the world of philanthropy, few gestures are as enduring—or as impactful—as a planned gift. While annual donations and capital campaigns keep our programs running and fund facilities needs, planned giving can ensure that our mission thrives for generations to come. It's a way for you to leave a legacy that reflects your values—and allows you to gain financial and tax benefits in the process.

So, what exactly is planned giving and why should you consider a planned gift for the Education Foundation?

Planned giving, also known as legacy giving, refers to charitable contributions that are arranged in the present but allocated at a future date, typically through a donor's will or estate plan. Unlike cash donations made during a donor's lifetime, planned gifts are often larger and more strategic, designed to support the long-term sustainability of a nonprofit organization.

These gifts can take many forms, from simple to complex, but what they all share is the intention to make a lasting difference.



“

*The future is something we can all help shape—one legacy at a time.*

”



## Types of Planned Gifts

Planned giving isn't one-size-fits-all, but here are some of the most common types:

- **Bequests:** The most straightforward form of planned giving, a bequest is a gift made through a will or living trust. Donors can leave a specific amount, a percentage of their estate, or a particular asset.
- **Charitable Gift Annuities (CGAs):** In exchange for a donation, the nonprofit agrees to pay the donor (or another beneficiary) a fixed income for life. After the donor's death, the remaining funds support the nonprofit.
- **Charitable Remainder Trusts (CRTs):** These allow donors to receive income from the trust for a set period or for life, after which the remaining assets go to the nonprofit.
- **Charitable Lead Trusts (CLTs):** The reverse of CRTs, these provide income to the nonprofit for a set period, after which the remaining assets return to the donor or their heirs.
- **Beneficiary Designations:** Donors can name a nonprofit as a beneficiary of retirement accounts, life insurance policies, or investment accounts—an easy and flexible way to give.
- **Real Estate and Appreciated Assets:** Donating property or stocks can provide significant tax advantages while supporting a cause the donor cares about.

## Benefits for Donors

Planned giving is mostly about generosity—but it's also smart financial planning. Here's how donors benefit:

- **Tax Advantages:** Many planned gifts offer income, estate, and capital gains tax benefits. For example, donating appreciated stock can avoid capital gains taxes while still providing a charitable deduction.
- **Income for Life:** Vehicles like CGAs and CRTs allow donors to receive a steady income stream, often at favorable rates.
- **Legacy and Impact:** Planned giving allows donors to make a larger gift than they might be able to during their lifetime, leaving a meaningful legacy aligned with their values and a cause they care about.
- **Flexibility and Control:** Donors can structure gifts to meet personal, family, and philanthropic goals, and many planned gifts can be modified if circumstances change.

## Transformational Impact on Students

For the Education Foundation, planned gifts are a cornerstone of long-term sustainability. Here's why:

- **Financial Stability:** Legacy gifts can help create a financial cushion that allows organizations to weather economic uncertainty.
- **Mission Expansion:** Larger, unrestricted gifts can fund new programs, endowments, or capital improvements that might otherwise be out of reach.
- **Stronger donor and community partnerships:** Planned giving programs foster meaningful connections with our donors, leading to a bigger impact on students and schools.
- **Visibility and Credibility:** A robust planned giving program signals organizational maturity and long-term vision, which can attract other major donors and institutional funders.

## Cultivating Your Legacy, Setting Up Student Success

Ultimately, planned giving is about planting seeds today that will blossom far into the future. For donors like you, it's a chance to write your values into the story of our district.

The future is something we can all help shape—one legacy at a time. If you're interested in discussing how you can leave a lasting legacy in our community, contact Executive Director Paul Olivett at (814) 883-8067 or [paul@scasdfoundation.org](mailto:paul@scasdfoundation.org).





## Maroon & Gray Society Celebration Brings Together SCASD Community to Honor Alumni and Educators

Proceeds from generous sponsors and donors helped to grow the Mardi Lowry McDonough '87 Student Opportunity Fund

Thank you to our honorees and their families, our generous sponsors and the guests who attended the 2025 Maroon & Gray Society Celebration. The event raised more than \$25,000 to benefit students and allowed our community to gather for a fun and worthwhile evening!

### MAROON & GRAY SOCIETY

# Celebration

## 2025 SPONSORS





## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR HONOREES



Our 2025 Honorees: Ralph Way, Mary Kay Montovino, Betty Kleban (mother of Thomas Kleban), Allayn Beck, Linda Domin and Gwen Bunnell.

- ★ **Allayn Salter Beck '04**, Executive Director, State College Food Bank
- ★ **Gwen Bunnell**, Kindergarten Teacher (Retired), Corl Street Elementary
- ★ **Linda Domin '57**, Kindergarten Teacher (Retired), Lemont Elementary
- ★ **Thomas "Tek" Kleban '85**, Coach, Boys & Girls Track and Field 2008-2020, State College Area High School & Senior Research Analyst, Mariner (Presented Posthumously)
- ★ **Mary Kay Archer Montovino '73**, Executive Secretary (Retired) SCASD, Former Board Member and Former President, SCASD Education Foundation

- ★ **Ian Hendrickson-Smith '92**, Professional musician: Six-time Grammy Award-winning saxophonist for the Tonight Show, The Roots, Amy Winehouse, Al Green, Mark Ronson and more.
- ★ **Ralph Way '52**, Real Estate Developer and Founder of Foxdale Village Retirement Community
- ★ **Alice Gilmore Young '77**, Vice President of Finance and Corporate Compliance Officer, John F. Kennedy Behavioral Health Center (Retired)

Thank you to our guests!



# Maroon & Gray Society Celebration





# Maroon & Gray Society Celebration



# Maroon & Gray Society Celebration



## ATTENTION ALUMNI! Promote Your Reunion!

The Education Foundation can promote your upcoming reunion through several channels:

- Our monthly email newsletter, which includes thousands of State High alumni
- Our printed magazine, FOUNDATIONS, published 3 times annually
- The Events calendar on our website
- The State High Alumni Facebook page

To get in touch with your reunion save the date or event details, or to post a message seeking reunion planning support from your classmates, contact paul@scasdfoundation.org.

After your event, we'd love to share your photos in an album on the website and on Facebook.

### Partnering with the Education Foundation

When we promote your reunion, we'll work with you to make sure as many of your classmates as possible are in the loop. We'll cross-check your list with ours and provide opportunities for alumni to update their contact information and stay in the loop.

Previous classes have utilized their reunion years to make a difference for current and future students by creating special one-time or permanent funds that support areas like academics, mental health and extracurricular activities. If your reunion committee and fellow alumni would like to pay it forward to new generations of students, we'll help you set something up.

You can also work with the school district to schedule a tour of the new high school and newly renovated Memorial Field.

**Class of 2005** — Your 20th Reunion is scheduled for November 29, 2025, at Boal City Brewing!

**Register here:** <https://my.cheddarup.com/c/state-high-2005-20-year-reunion/items>

**Sixes! 2026 is your year!**

Visit [facebook.com/StateHighAlumni/](https://facebook.com/StateHighAlumni/) and message your reunion information to be published in the Education Foundation newsletter and on the alumni Facebook page!



Class of 1971's birthday celebration on July 19 in State College.



Keep up with alumni news and share yours at [facebook.com/StateHighAlumni](https://facebook.com/StateHighAlumni)



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State College, PA 16801

[www.scasdfoundation.org](http://www.scasdfoundation.org)

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**JOIN OUR  
COMMUNITY!**



To keep up with Education Foundation and  
Alumni News, subscribe to our e-letter at  
[scasdfoundation.org](http://scasdfoundation.org)  
and follow us on Facebook at  
[facebook.com/scasdfoundation](https://facebook.com/scasdfoundation)

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

## Make a Gift in 2025

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

Support Student Opportunities



Make Your Secure Online Donation Here