

ISSUE 9

CLAIRE WILLIAMS O'NEIL FOUNDATION





THE CLAIRE WILLIAMS O'NEIL FOUNDATION

*Dedicated to expanding educational opportunities
for Susquehanna area youth.*



FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER ISSUE 9

Table of Contents

President’s Message.....	2
2023 Scholarship Winners	3
2023 College Graduates	4
Current Scholars.....	5
Past Scholar.....	8
Career Field Trips	9
Partners	11
Project Jump Start.....	13
SCHS Inspiration Laboratory	14
Donations	15

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to Our Annual Newsletter

Over the past year, the Foundation continued and deepened its cooperation with Susquehanna Community High School to help its students prepare for college studies and careers after graduation.

Two new scholars were added to our long list of past winners. The first is Juliann Downton who will attend the University of South Florida. The second is Reilly Potter who will study at Cornell University.

The annual DT Midstream scholarship was awarded to Allison Jenkins who will enroll at Binghamton University.

Our Foundation supported three field trips during the year. In September 2022, DTM Midstream hosted SCHS students and introduced them to careers in technology, project management, and finance. In April 2023, a trip was arranged to the Benton Foundry, a leading company in the iron casting industry, where students were able to observe the use of advanced technology in automated material handling and robotics.

Then, in May 2023, Cornell University hosted students from the ninth through eleventh grade. They were able to visit science and engineering facilities and interact with Cornell faculty in the engineering, nanoscience, and biomedical labs. Our students also participated in a college admissions discussion and learned what they need to do during their high school years to successfully apply to top colleges.

Susquehanna Community High School principal Brent Soden's new initiative, Project Jump Start, which pairs promising SCHS students from tenth grade onwards with mentors, expanded during the year. The Claire Williams O'Neil Foundation is supporting this program by suggesting mentors from our past scholars as well as providing financial assistance. By end of 2023, we expect to have nine mentor mentee pairings in full operation. The Foundation would like to thank our past scholars who are committing their time to be mentors in this program.

We are grateful to three former CWOFF scholars who have volunteered to take leadership roles in advancing the work of the CWOFF and SCHS: Melissa Kukowski who conducts Mini Medical School at SCHS, Emily Staros who coaches students in how to create effective college applications, and Paula Stone who coordinates Project Jump Start. A major objective of our Foundation is to create a community of support for the Susquehanna Community School District. The volunteer work of these three individuals is a sterling example of how this spirit is taking hold.

I would also like to express appreciation to our key partners. DT Midstream has been steadfast in its commitment to award scholarships and provide assistance to the school. The Honesdale National Bank conducts widely appreciated financial literacy courses for SCHS students by providing both personnel and funding for this program. The Susquehanna County Arts, Education, and Healthy Community Fund continues to provide valuable support for individual high school projects designated by SCHS principal Brent Soden.

Before closing, there are three individuals who I would like to mention. The first is Carolyn Flanagan, a founding board member of the Foundation, who passed away this year. A native of Susquehanna, a former teacher, and the secretary of the Foundation, Carolyn inspired us and was a key driver of our work. She will be greatly missed. The second is Ken Goody who we welcome as a new CWOFF board member. Ken has broad experience in the working of non-profit organizations, and we are fortunate to have him as a colleague. The third is Bronson Stone, SCSD Superintendent, who is retiring this year. A leader of competence and integrity, Bronson has been constant in supporting our Foundation. We thank him for his many years of support and friendship.

The Foundation is fortunate to be able to work in a deeply cooperative way with the leadership, administration, and faculty of the SCSD. We see our role as being a supporter of their good work in nurturing students and we are grateful for their faith in us.

Roger O'Neil
CWFOP President

2023 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Juliann Downton

Winner of the 2023 Claire Williams O'Neil Scholarship

Juliann will attend the University of South Florida and major in biomedical science. Highlights of Juliann's high school career include:

- Salutatorian of the Class of 2023
- Student Council President and National Honor Society
- Football Cheerleading Co-Captain, Track & Field Manager, Competitive Dance, Drama Club, Mini Medical School, and Interact Club
- Food Pantry Volunteer, Founder of Here for You, Math Tutoring, Kindergarten Classroom Assistant

"Juli has been a stellar student. She knew she wanted a career in the medical field, and she took advantage of every opportunity offered to her including healthcare externships, medical seminars, and job shadow experiences. What makes Juli special is her kind and caring personality. She is an easy person to talk to and always has a positive attitude towards life. These qualities will make her an excellent professional in the world of medicine!" – Bridget Milos, Susquehanna Community High School Counselor



Reilly Potter

Winner of the 2023 Claire Williams O'Neil Scholarship

Reilly has been accepted at Cornell University to major in electrical and computer engineering. Highlights of Reilly's high school career include:

- Valedictorian Class of 2023 and NEIU Scholar of the Year
- National Honor Society, Student Council, Yearbook Committee
- Track and Field, Football, and Band
- Earned his Eagle Scout rank through the Boy Scouts of America
- Participated in the creation of a veteran's memorial in Starrucca

"Reilly has a drive to succeed and the determination to excel in everything that he does. He is an exceptional young man who goes above and beyond what is expected of him. I am very excited to see what the future has in store for him at Cornell University!" – Bridget Milos, Susquehanna Community High School Counselor



Allison Jenkins

Winner of the 2023 DT Midstream Technology Scholarship

Allison will attend Binghamton University and major in computer science.

Highlights of Allison’s high school career include:

- Lackawanna College Level Up Program
- National Honor Society
- Girl Scouts
- Soccer, Competition Cheer Team, and Softball
- Elementary School Book Fair and Starrucca Creek Cleanup



"Allison has a quiet personality, but don't let that fool you. She is one of the hardest working students that I have ever come across. From excelling in her senior year courses to working a job after school to taking extra college classes to complete her associate degree, Allison has prepared herself for success. I am proud of her, and I am confident that she will build a successful future for herself." – Bridget Milos, Susquehanna Community High School Counselor

2023 COLLEGE GRADUATE

Kaylee Landry

Seton Hall University '23 | Bachelor of Science in Biology

Kaylee graduated from Seton Hall University (SHU) with a Bachelor of Science in biology. During Kaylee’s last semester at SHU, she participated in a national project called Tiny Earth, a collective research effort carried out by college students and their professors to search for novel antibiotic compounds, specifically by investigating soil bacteria. Since graduating in December of 2022, Kaylee has been considering her next career steps. During this time, she has travelled across the country to explore how the healthcare industry differs from place to place and identify where she would like to continue her studies.



"I've known since high school that I wanted to work in healthcare, but it has been a challenge to pinpoint exactly how and where I would best contribute. Thankfully, I have found the answer in nursing. I plan on applying to accelerated BSN programs in the coming months which will enable me to complete a nursing degree in less than two years. I believe that nursing will give me the rewarding, hands-on, patient focused work and flexible work-life balance that I have been searching for."

My advice to students at SCHS is to take as many dual enrollment courses as you can. I took all the non-science courses offered at SCHS for college credit, including English, social studies, and psychology. This lightened my overall load at college. There are scholarships available and the staff at SCHS are extremely knowledgeable about them. I would urge any student to use these resources to their fullest. In terms of college itself, I had the experience of living through the pandemic while in school. This limited my ability to be involved in extracurricular pursuits like clubs and research. I know it can be hard for students to leave their comfort zone and seize such opportunities, but I would highly recommend they do it." – Kaylee Landry

CURRENT SCHOLARS

Activities of scholars who are currently pursuing their undergraduate degrees

Taylor Huyck

Elizabethtown College | Bachelor of Science in Biology

Taylor is a senior at Elizabethtown College studying biology and is enrolled in the Accelerated Pre-Physician Assistant Program. She has received the departmental biology award for three years and is on the Dean's List. Her honors thesis is on healthcare for the homeless community.

Taylor's activities include the Colleges Against Cancer Club and the Student Athletic Advisory Committee. She also has continued her basketball career at Etown. Currently, Taylor is volunteering with Grane Hospice and has interned at a nursing home to gain experience with patient interaction.

"I will officially complete my undergraduate degree in December. After that, I will continue to take classes at Etown to complete my Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies.

I think that college life can be difficult if you do not get involved in extracurricular activities. I would recommend joining clubs in both high school and college. This will help you meet people with similar interests, build a skill set, enhance your resume, and find activities that can be stress relievers. And remember the key to success is time management. This was a skill I developed in high school and has served me well in college." – Taylor Huyck



Kimberly Swartz

University of Pittsburgh | Bachelor of Science in Chemistry

Kimberly is a junior at the University of Pittsburgh where she is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in chemistry with a minor in neuroscience. Kimberly plans to earn her Doctor of Pharmacy via the six-year Doctor of Pharmacy program. She is a membership chair of the Students for Sensible Drug Policy and a member of Pittsburgh Attacks Cancer Together. During the spring semester, she took a class that focused on addiction, the body's reaction to withdrawal, and addiction recovery.

"I am currently a pharmacy technician at CVS Pharmacy and plan to do an internship with UPMC beginning in fall 2023. The opportunities at Pitt are truly endless. The school offers so many opportunities for classes and career pathways. Adding a minor in neuroscience is giving me the opportunity to get involved with a research project on deep brain stimulation to help treat addiction. I am excited to start my junior year when I will be begin researching the effects of antibiotics." – Kimberly Swartz



Meghan Kiernan

Lehigh University | Integrated Degree in Engineering Arts & Sciences

Meghan is a sophomore at Lehigh University pursuing an integrated degree in engineering arts and sciences. She made the Dean's List and is a member of the women's basketball and softball teams.

In chemistry thin layer chromatography (TLC) lab (below), Meghan is using TLC to identify unknown analgesic painkillers. This is accomplished by studying unknown samples moving up the TLC plate and matching the distances to known drug compositions.



“My life at Lehigh has been full of new adventures. I have met some amazing people and formed strong relationships with some of my professors and mentors. There is so much to learn, and Lehigh challenges me to explore new possibilities. I am excited to begin my sophomore year in the fall!

Don't be intimidated by the adjustment to a much larger setting! Your peers are your friends, and your professors are there to help you. Although it is a big change, college life is full of fun if you are able to balance your academic and social life.”
– Meghan Kiernan



Joseph Staria

Rochester Institute of Technology | Bachelor of Science in Game Design & Development

Joseph is a sophomore studying computer game design and development. This fall, he will become an interactive games and media ambassador. In this position, Joseph will assist in setting up events and providing tours for prospective students and prospective companies that partner with the college. During his first year, Joseph completed one major project for which he was selected as team leader. His next significant project will deal with learning industry game engines.

“Live life the way you would like to look back at it because you only have one chance! College is life-changing and being able to pick and choose what you want to do with your schooling is amazing. I met new friends, discovered new food, and most importantly, how to make games!

College life is nice. There's freedom of choice in a lot of areas. I have taken electives ranging from Intro to Film to Rhetoric of Terrorism. Don't be afraid to take those dual enrollment courses at SCHS; they're a real lifesaver when it comes to classes you need to take in college.” – Joseph Staria



Joshua Marco

University of Pittsburgh | Bachelor of Science Mechanical Engineering

Joshua is a sophomore at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown studying mechanical engineering. He is on the Dean's List and is member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) and Society of Undergraduate Engineers (SUE). Joshua will transfer to the University of Pittsburgh main campus in the fall of 2023. He plans to become involved in other engineering-related clubs and pursue a minor in mathematics.

“College is a major turning point in most people’s lives, and there are a lot of things to do, people to meet, and opportunities to take. However, it is important to remember why you are there. Acquiring your degree and expanding your depth of knowledge should be paramount. All other things will fall into place when you focus on what is important.” – Joshua Marco



Jason Smith

Keystone College | Associate of Science in Business Administration

Jason is a senior at Keystone College studying business administration. His business ethics class focus was on spreading kindness and assisting the community. During this time, he did many hours of community service.

“While attending Keystone my passion for owning my own business has grown. I’ve learned how a business should and shouldn’t be run, how important it is to be ethical with your employees, and the marketing that goes into making a business work.

Regarding college life, there will be ups and downs; there will be days that are long and tiring; and it will be hard. But that is good! On the good days you will look at yourself and be proud of what you have accomplished and know it was worth the time and energy. My biggest suggestion for incoming Freshman is this; build your time management skills. If you can manage your time effectively and efficiently you will be perfectly fine. While in high school embrace a positive mental attitude and stretch yourself to take the more difficult courses. If you don’t try, you can’t succeed.” – Jason Smith



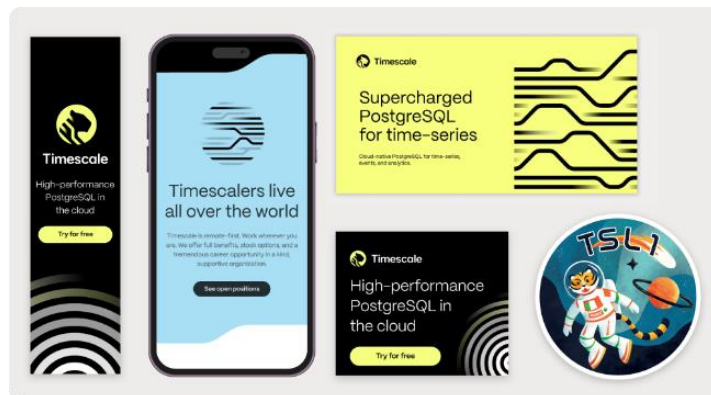
PAST SCHOLAR

Kyla Kemmerer

2010 Claire Williams O'Neil Scholar | Pratt Institute '14 | Bachelor of Fine Arts in Communications Design

"I am currently the lead graphic designer at Timescale, a cloud-based company that focuses on time-series data. That sounds like gibberish, so you can just say I design for a marketing team at a tech company. My work focuses on the creative direction of our brand. I work closely with developers, product managers, and other designers to create web landing pages, digital ads, conference materials, animation, and apparel. My position involves a lot of meetings and documentation, but I get freedom to illustrate and draw as well.

While in high school, I was told that pursuing a career in art or design was a poor decision. Although this was discouraging, I did find inspiration from several teachers at SCHS and decided to go for it. The Claire Williams O'Neil Foundation supported my decision and with the help of their scholarship, I was able to attend the Pratt Institute in NYC, my dream art school. There, I learned that it's not as much about the type of degree you receive, but the work you put into it. I wanted to be prepared for whatever the job market had in store for me, so I made sure I had multiple skills. I also studied graphic design and advertising. Having these multiple skills helped me get my foot in the door of professional art and design firms. Although it took a few unpaid internships to gain some real work experience, I was able to start small and work my way up to where I am today as a career designer in tech.



I currently live in Pittsburgh, but by choosing a career in tech, I have the freedom to work remotely and spend time traveling to new places and exploring the outdoors. Although I want to grow my career (I'm on track to become Creative Director at my company), my real goal is to have a decent work-life balance, time to create my own art, and time for my family and friends. I want to work to live, instead of living to work.

The most valuable thing I received from college was not my degree, but an introduction to the wider world and new perspectives. Pushing myself out of my comfort zone gave me confidence to accomplish things I never thought I could. In the last few years, I have run a marathon, biked a 350-mile trip from Pittsburgh to Washington, DC (I re-learned how to ride a bike when I was 26!), traveled to four new countries, completed a seventy-plus-mile solo-backpacking trip, and am now preparing to hike the entire Appalachian Trail in 2024. For all these goals, I started small, walking before running. With every new experience we push ourselves out of our comfort zone and discover something new about ourselves."

CAREER FIELD TRIPS

During the 2022-2023 academic year, the CWOFF supported SCHS students' field trips to two businesses sites (DT Midstream, Benton Foundry) and to Cornell University. Students benefit from these trips by discovering possible future careers and learning how to prepare themselves for college. The field trips are possible because of the generosity of people in the community who have made contributions to the CWOFF.

Cornell University

In May 2023, SCHS students visited Cornell University. The day started with a roundtable discussion relating to college admission. Cornell admissions personnel provided an overview of actions students need to take to create compelling college applications including:

- Exploring potential college careers and take appropriate courses in ninth grade,
- Starting to work on the Common Application and understanding the requirements of colleges in which they are interested in tenth grade,
- The importance of starting to prepare their applications early and the importance of researching the academic programs at the colleges in which they are interested,
- The importance of selecting the right teacher for providing personal recommendations,
- The advantage of taking free on-line courses with institutions such as Khan Academy to supplement their transcript,
- The importance of taking harder courses to demonstrate a “growth mindset,” and
- The benefit of participating in extracurricular activities related to the field in which they wish to study.



The tour also included the following sessions:



Engineering (Left): This session consisted of visiting the engineering facilities and labs where students met Cornell students working on team projects such as rocket launching, 3D printing of concrete structures, and earthquake seismology.

Nanoscale Science and Technology (Right): This session consisted of a virtual tour of the Cornell NanoScale Facility. The tour encompassed lithography, deposition, etching, measurement, and other processes. Of great interest to students was a nano robot research project used in the medical field (code name: Swimming Microbot). The Microbot is a miniature submarine injected into the body that can swim to an exact location and deposit medicine in a precise area. The focus of this research is related to cancer treatment.





Biomedical Lab (Left): This session introduced students to materials being created to replace human cartilage with a focus on knees and elbows.

"My favorite part of the trip was talking to the admissions staff from the different colleges within the university. It was very beneficial in helping me and my peers understand what colleges look for on an application." - Rebecca Haley, Susquehanna Community High School Student

"It really opened my eyes to see what a very high-end college looks like. I also was able to learn what they look for in the application process. I never really thought that Cornell could be an opportunity for me but after seeing the campus and the environment there, I truly think it's a possibility for my future college."- Alexandria Hall, Susquehanna Community High School Student

DT Midstream

In September 2022, SCHS students visited DT Midstream where they received an in-depth tour of a compressor station operation. DT Midstream staff then provided presentations on the different job opportunities in the natural gas industry such as materials, finance, purchasing, project management, technology, and engineering.



It was an exceptional experience for our students, and we thank the DT Midstream personnel for providing this opportunity. – Bridget Milos, Susquehanna Community High School Counselor

Benton Foundry



In April 2023, SCHS students went on a field trip to Benton Foundry, a leading company in the iron casting industry for over fifty years. Benton Foundry has a fully automated facility that pours approximately 175 tons of gray and ductile iron per day. Students toured the discovery center where they were introduced to the iron casting process and the industries the foundry serves. Then they visited the pattern shop, quality and statistical analysis lab,

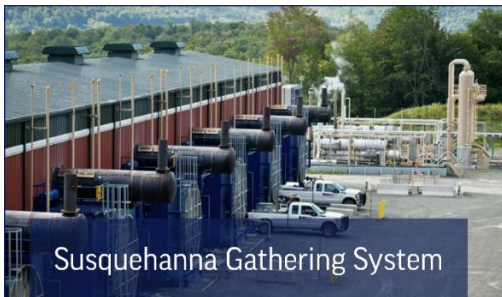
furnace control room, automated material handling, core manufacturing, robotic grinding stations, and air circulation systems.

"This trip opened the student's eyes to new and different careers and opportunities. It surprised them to see the many type of jobs involved, and the variety of career opportunities available. Several students came away inspired to pursue college degrees in technology." – Will Szili, Susquehanna Community High School Health & Physical Education Teacher

PARTNERS

We are delighted to continue our strong partnerships with DT Midstream, The Honesdale National Bank, and the Susquehanna County Arts Education and Healthy Community Fund. These partnerships are key to broadening the perspectives of the youth in the Susquehanna community.

DT Midstream



DT Midstream owns and operates natural gas pipelines, storage, and gathering systems for gas and electric utilities that serve industrial customers across the United States and Canada. Since coming to Susquehanna County in 2012, DT Midstream has become a major employer in the area.

In 2015, DT Midstream joined with the Claire Williams O’Neil Foundation to establish a scholarship program for SCHS students interested in careers in business and technology. To date, DT Midstream

has provided over \$90,000 in scholarship funding to Susquehanna Community High School students.

In addition to providing grants, DT Midstream managers participate directly in the scholarship selection process and in mentoring scholarship winners during their college years. DT Midstream also supports the SCSD by hosting annual student career field trips, funding the acquisition of digital equipment for the school, being involved in student mock interview sessions, and taking part in career day presentations at SCHS.

"DT Midstream has been a partner that year after year goes out of its way to help Susquehanna students. We are extremely grateful for this partnership." – Brent Soden, Susquehanna Community High School Principal

The Honesdale National Bank

The Honesdale National Bank (HNB) is an independent financial institution serving northeast Pennsylvania and the Southern Tier of New York. Their mission includes “acting in the best interest of ... our communities.” In 2018, HNB demonstrated its commitment to this mission by establishing a partnership with SCSD to conduct a financial literacy program at the school. In this program, HNB both funds and provides expertise to help high school students learn the skills necessary to navigate the modern financial world.

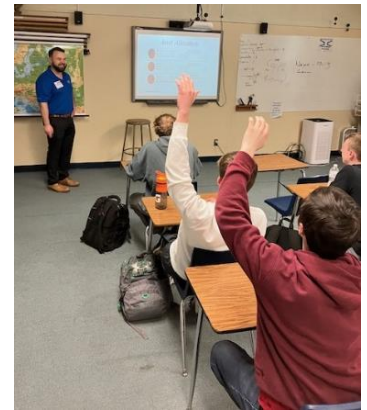


The financial literacy curriculum includes a full range of financial topics, real life market simulations, and presentations by HNB personnel. Students learn about banking services, credit scores, investing, student loans, mortgages, and retirement savings.

During the 2022-2023 school year, HNB conducted two live classroom presentations at SCHS. In the fall of 2022, Michelle Kowalewski, HNB Commercial Loan Officer, and Skylar Groover, HNB Branch Manager, provided a session on credit in a way that students found real and insightful (left). They stressed how important credit ratings are and how students can manage credit.

"Michelle and Skylar are great with the students. As a teacher, I love the relationship we have with the Honesdale National Bank. Hearing about financial information from the industry seems to resonate with students more strongly." - Robert Goodrich, Susquehanna Community High School Economics Teacher

In the spring of 2023, Ted Radu, HNB Trust Officer, came to the school to lecture on investing and retirement readiness (right). He discussed stocks, bonds, and how to invest in the market. Ted was able to explain this normally boring topic with a passion that made it real for the students. He provided the students graphic evidence that investing for retirement at an early age will vastly improve their economic situation later in life.



“Ted hit the bullseye with his presentation. I cannot thank the Honesdale National Bank enough for caring about our students. It is great to see HNB helping address the issue of financial literacy with some of their best talent.” – Robert Goodrich, Susquehanna Community High School Economics Teacher



L: 2022-2023 Winners of the Mr. Goodrich/HNB Stock Market Challenge! L to R: Robert Goodrich, Lilliana Matis, Zoey Cramer, Christopher Eger; Not Pictured: Kelsea Benson

“In 1836, The Honesdale National Bank was founded on the concept of supporting growth in the community. In that very notion is the root of HNB’s commitment to financial literacy. It is about providing the support, guidance and know how to define a pathway to achievement; for without this, the tools available will never be used to their greatest value. Enabling our community members and businesses to thrive by learning skills at every life stage is part of what drives the HNB team.

We aim to provide subject-matter experts that can build student skills and the motivation and confidence to use them. The criticality of financial literacy is vastly underrecognized today and we aim to be a catalyst for change for NEPA.” – Elizabeth Nagy, Vice President and Director of Sales, Marketing, and Digital Banking

R: The Honesdale National Bank continues their support of the SCHS financial literacy program. Michele Kowalewski and Skylar Groover of Honesdale National Bank present Susquehanna Community School District with a \$5,000 donation.



Susquehanna County Arts, Education, and Healthy Community Fund

During the 2021-22 school year, Susquehanna Community School District struggled with an auditorium lighting system that repetitively failed. The school’s technology department worked diligently to keep the system up and running; however, it was a never-ending challenge as replacement parts for the aging system are becoming difficult to procure. Realizing that the arts play a crucial role in the lives of our youth, the Susquehanna County Arts, Education, and Healthy Community Fund stepped forward and provided \$5,000 to allow the school to update the lighting board and front stage lighting. This fund was established by Ken Goody to support quality educational, cultural, and social service organizations in Susquehanna County.

“The Susquehanna Community School District is extremely thankful for the support that Ken Goody has provided over the years.” – Brent Soden, Susquehanna Community High School Principal

PROJECT JUMP START

In 2022, Susquehanna Community High School principal Brent Soden initiated Project Jump Start, a program to mentor individual students beginning in tenth grade to guide them towards careers that align with their interests and the best colleges to attend to pursue them. The Claire Williams O'Neil Foundation agreed to help and began its cooperation by identifying suitable mentors from the list of past scholarship winners whose experience can be of direct help to current students. Six mentor-mentee relationships have been established to date and three more will be added in 2023. After just one year of experience, we have found participating students inspired to visit universities of interest to them and take extra outside courses either in person or online to augment their high school curriculum.



Mentor-mentee pairing Alyssa Hubal, a doctorate candidate in biomedical sciences at Case Western University and 2016 CWOFF scholar, and Lilly Matis, a rising senior at SCHS, took part in an interview to share their experience with the program.

Lilly: Going into this program, I had a rough idea of what my future looked like, but I was confused. I knew I was interested in the medical field, and Alyssa has helped me to narrow that down. She's also exposed me to new majors and colleges that either I didn't know existed or initially had no interest in. Our meetings have definitely changed my thought process for the better.

Lilly Matis, SCHS Senior

Alyssa: When I was in high school, I thought there were only a few options in the medical field (nurse, physician, or physician's assistant). When I started exploring the field more in depth in college, I realized there were many options outside the traditional careers. I saw a similar struggle with Lilly.

Lilly: We try to make it a habit to meet once a month. Alyssa is very flexible with dates and times, which is great. Our meetings range from fifteen minutes to an hour.

Alyssa: While I am a mentor to Lilly now, I believe we have also developed a strong, lasting friendship. She has also improved my own ability to communicate effectively and listen actively, giving me a sense of personal growth by being her mentor.

Lilly: I would say that it is totally worth it. I'm so lucky to have Alyssa guiding me through this crazy process. She has given me endless recommendations for colleges and programs. She's provided me with so many helpful resources, and she's great to answer any questions I may have. This program has helped me feel much more confident about my future.



Alyssa Hubal, 2016 CWOFF
Scholarship Winner

Alyssa: Being supportive and trustworthy are the qualities of all good mentors. The beauty of this program is that every mentee is different, so what they will need from their mentor is different. The most important thing mentees can do is just make time to speak with their mentor at least once a month. This fosters an ongoing relationship with the mentor and creates a safe environment for open and honest communication.

The CWOFF would like to thank Lilly and Alyssa for their comments and express thanks also to all the mentors who have volunteered to participate in Project Jump Start.

INSPIRATION LAB

During the 2022-2023 school year, the Inspiration Lab saw the most student activity to date. The Social Studies Department undertook to use the Lab for at least one project for each student. While the immediate goal was to ensure students became familiar with the Lab, the ultimate goal was to have students learn in a more creative and innovative way. Students utilized the video editing software and greenscreens to recreate major events in history. Seventh grade students were able to



generate videos about events in world history. One group of ninth graders advanced to the next level of complexity. They made the greenscreen appear as though they were flying a commercial airliner (above).

Teachers also found other ways to utilize the Lab. Students enrolled in Ms. Rockwell's Communications 7 class dove into project-based learning, and Mr. Pregnar's STEM class used it as an introduction to coding.

The Inspiration Lab is now home to SCHS' first after-school technology Club. One group of students worked with Mrs. Spencer to get the Lab's podcasting equipment up and running. The use of the Lab's state-of-the-art podcasting equipment gives students a voice in novel ways. For the current school year, the students are producing SCHS Works, a podcast hosted by Brent Soden, the Susquehanna Community Jr/Sr High School principal.

Earlier this year, the Inspiration Lab received a new \$5,000 donation from Southwestern Energy. This will be used to add virtual reality as available technology for students. The current school year is set to be an exciting time for the Inspiration Lab and students of Susquehanna Community High School.

The Inspiration Lab is 100% community funded. Its goal is to provide an environment for students to be creative, innovative, and independent.

DONATIONS

The Foundation is grateful to all those who have contributed to our work in the past and continue to do so. Your donations allow the students of Susquehanna Community High School to participate in programs beyond the standard high school curriculum and use technical equipment that is cutting edge.

Please send contributions to the Claire Williams O'Neil Foundation to:

Claire Williams O'Neil Foundation
Michael Flanagan, Treasurer
2720 36th Place NW
Washington, DC 2007

Please send contributions to support the SCHS Inspiration Laboratory to:

Susquehanna Community High School
Mr. Brent Soden, Principal
3192 Turnpike Street
Susquehanna, PA 15213

or

Susquehanna Community Inspiration Lab Fund
Community Foundation of the Endless Mountains
270 Lake Avenue
Montrose, PA 18801

Electronic contribution for the Susquehanna Community Inspiration Lab Fund can be made using the following link: <https://community-foundation.org/fund/susquehanna-community-inspiration-lab-fund>.