



## Message from the Executive Director

Well summer is over and the kids are back in school. We hope that you had an enjoyable summer and had a chance to relax and enjoy time with family.

This summer has been a busy one for the Foundation for Pottstown Education as you will read in this newsletter. We are looking toward a busy fall and entire school year as well. Some of the busyness involved organizational tasks such as review of our Bylaws and setting our new Strategic Plan.

Other items included grant proposals and fund raising such as gifts from the Pottstown Area Health & Wellness Foundation and the First Presbyterian and Mary Porter Community Foundation of Broward County or preparing to fund activities in the schools such as the Rupert Elementary Fourth Grade Rope Course and the Early College Program.

Finally, we have been working on some new projects for the Foundation including an Annual Support Campaign. During this campaign, volunteers from our community will be helping us by soliciting alumni, businesses, school district employees and the local community requesting their financial support to help us grow, permitting us to be better able to *promote opportunities for children.*

One item that we have been working on is this newsletter. In June we produced our first of the revised format. In doing so, we thought that we needed a new name. Rather than coming up with our own, we thought that it would be fun to invite students in the Pottstown School District the opportunity to name this newsletter. The student who submits the winning entry will win a \$50 gift card and be able to donate a \$200 gift card to a class or Pottstown School District recognized club or organization. Please see the article in this edition for further rules and procedure.

We hope that you and your student(s) have a great year. We will keep working to provide opportunities to make this year the best one yet.

## Mission Statement

*Promoting Opportunities for Children*

The mission of the Foundation for Pottstown Education is to support, promote, sponsor and carry out educational, scientific or charitable activities and objectives within or related to the Pottstown School District.

Summer  
2017  
Newsletter



## Foundation Board of Directors

### Officers

**President:**

Dr. Tracey Brown

**Vice President:**

Ed Edwards

**Treasurer:**

Scott Detar

**Secretary:**

Melissa Shainline

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Mr. Stephen Rodriguez

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**Solicitor:**

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**Executive Director:**

Joe Rusiewicz

**Administrative Assistant:**

Cheryl Stache

Foundation for  
Pottstown Education

230 Beech Street  
Pottstown, PA 19464  
610 970-6616

Foundation for  
Pottstown Education is  
a 501c3  
non-profit organization.

# Scholarship and Award Winners Announced

Alan O. Care Memorial Art Awards: Giavanna Smith Joseph G. Rinaldi Vocational –Technical Scholarship  
Sharon Gatheca Alaina Richter Ernest McCalvin  
Madelynn Thomas Avallina Orfield Joseph J. Derro Memorial Award: Jaylin Chestnut  
Calvin J. Swavely Memorial Scholarship: Casey Mest Kristen Egrie Memorial Award: Aimee White  
Citizens for Fair Real Estate Tax Award: MaSofia Sosa Lacey C. Ecker Award : Nathan Camacho  
Class of 1944 Scholarship Award: Joshua Gery Leon H. Seeders Scholarship: Javontae Tinson  
Dee Gondal Memorial Scholarship: Kenil Patel Nancy S. Heifer School Nurse Award : Jamaya Greer  
Detar Family Award: Joshua Gery Nelson Burnett Memorial Scholarship: Nyles Rome  
Dr. Ray E. Feick Scholarship: Christopher Stone Pottstown Alumni Wrestlers Scholarship: Isiah Mayes  
Earl G.Ewing Award: Nyles Rome Richard J. Ricketts, Jr. Scholarship:  
Earl Strange Award: Nathan Camacho Katherine McCoy– Swinehart  
Earl Strom Financial Aid Scholarship: Robert & Virginia B. Schultz Award: Alexis Martin  
Rachel Levensgood Devonna Douglass  
Edmund & Robert Hedgepeth Memorial Scholarships: Robert P. Smith Scholarships:  
Jamaya Greer and Tianna Bennett Valedictorian MaSofia Sosa  
Elizabeth J. Wells Social Studies Scholarships: Dylan Brant  
MaSofia Sosa Salutatorian  
Eluri Science Awards: Nyles Rome and MaSofia Sosa Ruth & Lorin Leister Prizes: Casey Mest MaSofia Sosa  
Dylan Brant  
Excellence in Computer Science Koren:MaSofia Sosa Stanley Davenport Financial Aid Scholarship:  
Excellence in Math Koren: MaSofia Sosa Stephanie Mast Miller Memorial Award:  
Mariah Hampton  
Foundation Elementary Citizenship Awards: Stuart Best Instrumental Music Awards:  
Michael Holmes Lili Freese Jaxon Davis Olivia Chin Connor O'Brian  
Tehj Phillips Layonna Scretching Madelynn Thomas Ja Vonna Mack Lucy DiMarcello  
Chase Thornton, Angeline Costa  
Frank D. Heifer Arts Award: Giavanna Smith William Engle Award Winners:  
Evan Draucker Olivia Chin Myra Rush  
Frerichs Family Scholarship Olivia Alejandro Kristen Kotchman Jacob Givens  
Gail Bensinger 4K Class Awards: Mrs. Swanson Macyahna Dalton Tatiana McVey  
Ms. Emes Mr. Sperat Mrs. Bauman Fatima Mohamed-Eck Gabriella Horne  
Aniyah Wells Aimee White Isiah Davis  
George Ralston Humanities Award: Katherine McCoy-Swinehart William F. Lamb Scholarship: Casey Mest  
Guy Sperat Family Award: Megan Mace William Hartranft Valedictorian Scholarship:  
MaSofia Sosa  
Helen Pavitt Awards: Danilea Castillo Giovanni Cooper Jayda McClune Xyaire Burke  
Henry A. Arms Memorial Award: Isiah Mayes William J. Schinstine Scholarship: Christopher Stone  
Howard Brown Athletic Scholarship: Alivia Lopez  
Jack L. Maloney Award Class of '33 MaSofia Sosa  
Joan A. (Herbst)Pomponio Memorial Scholarship: Heather Swanson



## Residency Program Update

In April 2017, the Foundation for Pottstown Education Board of Directors approved a new initiative to increase the number of employee-owned and occupied residences within the Borough of Pottstown by making homes more affordable. This initiative, the Residency Program, provides eligible applicants who work for the Pottstown School District, up to \$10,000 in the form of a forgivable loan. The funds can be used for closing costs, down payments, or other expenses directly related to the purchase of property determined to be eligible for the program.

Shortly after the announcement of this program, the Foundation had two requests for information

packets. The number of requests has since grown to six. One of the initial requesters has had her application approved and has closed on her new home.

Heather Kurtz, a second grade teacher at Lincoln Elementary School, applied for this program in May. She was approved for the loan and purchased her new home in Pottstown at the end of July. Heather's new home is actually the house where she spent her childhood; she purchased the house from her parents. Now Heather and her family can continue making family memories in this same home.

Heather indicated that the process for the application was extremely easy and she is very

happy in her new home in Pottstown.

The \$10,000 loan will have 20% forgiven each year that the homeowner remains an employee of the Pottstown School District and lives in the residence as his or her primary home. After five years, the loan is completely forgiven. Should the employee move or leave the Pottstown School District, the remaining balance of the loan is then due to be paid back to the Foundation.



## Foundation Strategic Planning Underway

The Foundation for Pottstown Education began its new Strategic Planning process in June with a Brainstorming Session at the Sunnybrook Ballroom. Eighteen community leaders worked with the results of the annual SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) Analysis to determine the goals of our organization during the next two years. This committee worked on nine areas in which the Foundation's Strategic Planning Committee will develop the strategies and action steps. The nine areas are: Alumni Relations, Board Development and Recruiting, Volunteers, Marketing, Organization and Programming, School District and Community Relations, and Fund Raising and Development.

This group also developed strategies in each of the areas to help the Foundation grow. The goals and strategies were then presented to the Foundation Board of Directors and a Strategic Planning Committee was developed. The new plan will be presented to the Board for approval and adoption at their September meeting.

The Foundation thanks the Brainstorming Committee Members. Those in attendance at the meeting were:

Mr. John Armato

Mr. Howard Brown

Mrs. Tracey Brown

Ms. Eileen Dautrich

Dr. David Di Mattio

Dr. Dean Foster

Mrs. Amy Francis

Mrs. Judith Greene

Mr. Matt Kutz

Mrs. Peggy Lee-Clark

Dr. Richard McLaughlin

Mrs. Tessi Melchoir

Dr. Richard Newell

Ms. Holly Parker

Mr. Stephen Rodriguez

Ms. Melissa Shainline

Mr. Frank Strunk

Ms. Sue Anne Yocom



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## Dr. Myra Forrest Scholarship Established



Dr. Myra Forrest

In March 2017, Dr. Myra Forrest retired from the Foundation of Pottstown Education after serving as its Executive Director and most recently as the Early College

Program Coordinator. Dr. Forrest was instrumental in many programs and projects with this Foundation, most notably, the Pottstown Promise Early College Program.

Dr. Forrest is passionate about education and working to provide as many students as possible the opportunity to further their education. Her passion was the Early College Program where Pottstown High School students could earn up to 30 college credits during their junior and senior years. To date, more than 75 students were enrolled in the Foundation's program and

earned college credits.

In June 2017, the Board of Directors of the Foundation for Pottstown Education approved funds to award a scholarship in recognition of Dr. Forrest's tenure and dedication to this program. The Dr. Myra Forrest Scholarship will recognize a graduating senior who was enrolled in the Pottstown Promise Early College Program. The first annual cash award will be issued to a member of the Class of 2018 in June.

Thank you, Dr. Forrest for your passion and commitment to the Foundation for Pottstown Education and the students of the Pottstown School District.

## Name the Newsletter Contest Announced

With the reissuing of our Foundation Newsletter, we are asking for input from the students in the district as to what we should name our newsletter. We decided to make this a contest where the student submitting the winning entry will win a \$50 Gift Card for themselves and a \$200 gift card for their class or Pottstown School District recognized and approved club/organization.

Put on your creative hats and submit your entry to the Foundation via email [jrusiewicz@pottstownk12.org](mailto:jrusiewicz@pottstownk12.org) or by mailing to Foundation for Pottstown Education 230 Beech Street Pottstown, PA 19464. All entries must be received by 5:00 PM Friday, September 22. The Selection Committee will narrow the choices down to the top 5 entries. The community will then be able to access a poll on our Facebook page and vote for their favorite name beginning Friday, September 29 and ending 12:00 noon Friday, October 6.

The top entry will receive one vote in the final tally, with the Selection Committee voting for their favorite entry. In the event of more than one entry with the same name, all entries with that name will be placed in a random drawing. The winner will be posted on the Facebook page as well as contacted by telephone. The new name will appear in the Fall 2017 edition of the newsletter.

All entries must have the student's and parent's names, home address, best telephone number to contact, grade, school attending and choice of class/club/organization to receive the \$200 gift card. Any entry without this information will be disqualified from the contest.

**ENTER  
TO WIN!**

A red, trapezoidal banner with a white border, containing the text 'ENTER TO WIN!' in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters.



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## The Amazing Raise is Set for October

The Foundation for Pottstown Education will be participating in the Tri County Community Network's (TCN) Amazing Raise on Tuesday, October 17, 2017. The Amazing Raise is an opportunity for the Foundation to not only raise funds for our programs but also to raise awareness of the impact that our funding provides to the students and teacher of the Pottstown School District.

The Amazing Raise is a giving challenge that brings together the region to help raise needed funds, shining a spotlight on the work of nonprofits in the Tri-County Area (Montgomery County, Eastern Berks County, and Northern Chester County). For every dollar raised by a participating nonprofit on October 17, 2017, a funding match will be provided.

FPE will be one of several local non-profits who will be participating. While the Foundation will be focusing on connecting with the PSD Alumni, anyone can donate to our organization. The more money raised by FPE the higher percentage that we will receive from the matching pool.

Donors can give through the online system or can give directly via mail/in person. The donation will be recorded so that we will get credit for that donation and receive the funding match. Donors can also pledge or schedule a donation for the day of the Amazing Raise through our profile page. Donations will be tabulated for each organization and sent to TCN for calculation of the match. A post-event check will be sent to each participating organization and will include the funding match.

For more information on donating to the Foundation and for promoting opportunities for children, contact the FPE Office 610-970-6616 or via email [jrusiewicz@pottstownk12.org](mailto:jrusiewicz@pottstownk12.org)

## Sports Carnival Deemed a Great Success

On Sunday, July 2, 2017 more than 1,000 children, parents and others gathered at Memorial Park to participate in the 2017 Sports Carnival. The event included sports clinics in basketball, soccer and tennis as well as sports competitions and demonstrations with Philadelphia Steam Fire Company and other fun events.

The event was organized by iBall United which is a Pottstown based sports agency. Howard Brown is the CEO of iBall United and he said the first Sports Carnival was a big success. He added, "It was a beautiful event and a beautiful day." He stated that it took a group effort to pull the entire event together. He was thankful for the area nonprofits, sponsors and organizers who supported the event.

*The Foundation for Pottstown Education  
was one of the sponsors.*



## Pottstown Health & Wellness Foundation Makes Donation to FPE

The Foundation for Pottstown Education (FPE) was recently awarded a two-year grant totaling \$90,000 from the Pottstown Area Health & Wellness Foundation (PAHWF). This grant is awarded in support of the Education Foundation's Administrative Operations. A check for \$50,000 was presented for year one of the approved grant.

FPE Executive Director, Joe Rusiewicz stated that he is not only pleased with the acceptance of this grant but also in the working relationship that both Foundations have with each other. "The support, not only financially, that PAHWF gives to us has been tremendous. The staff has always been available to answer questions or to offer advice when needed. I am looking forward to continuing this relationship."

FPE recently provided funding towards the Middle School Environmental Education Club's attendance at the Pocono Environmental Education Center, for the Early College Program, PEAK initiatives, Girls Today Leaders Tomorrow Program, equipment and computers for the Engineering Programs, AP Testing and has approved funding for the Rupert Elementary School Fourth Grade Ropes program, as well as working on the Planning Committee for the 2017 Sports Carnival. Previously, PAHWF has provided funding to the Education Foundation to support Administrative Operations and for fund raising software.

The remainder of the grant, \$40,000, will be issued in year two, 2018 contingent on submission and review of the year one report.

**About PAHWF:** The Pottstown Area Health & Wellness Foundation's (PAHWF) mission is to

motivate people to adopt healthy lifestyles. Visit [www.pottstownfoundation.org](http://www.pottstownfoundation.org) for more information about the Foundation. Discover Pottstown area's online community, [Mission Healthy Living](#), an initiative of PAHWF, to learn and share great information on how to lead a healthier life. You can also follow the Foundation on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Pinterest](#) and [YouTube](#).

**About FPE:** The Foundation for Pottstown Education's (FPE) mission is to support, promote, sponsor and carry out educational, scientific or charitable activities and objectives within or related to the Pottstown School District. Visit [www.foundationpottstowned.org](http://www.foundationpottstowned.org) for more information about the Foundation for Pottstown Education. You can also follow FPE on Facebook and Twitter.



Joe Rusiewicz, Executive Director, FPE & Dave Kraybill, President, PAHWF

## THANK YOU TO OUR SUMMER DONORS

### **\$10,000 PLUS**

Pottstown Health & Wellness Foundation  
Pottstown School District: Residency Program

### **\$1000-\$9999**

First Presbyterian Church of Pottstown/Mary N. Porter Designated Fund of the Community Foundation of Broward County

United Way of Greater Philadelphia & Southern New Jersey

Employees of PSD: from Casual Dress Days

Mr. Gerald T. Koren for PSD Women's Sports  
LGS Employees Association for Scholarship

### **\$1- \$499**

Howard Brown    Christy Nau    Jaime Parris  
Danielle McCoy    Steven Park    Diane Shoffstall  
Marcie Bieber    Nancy Nest    Michaela Johnson  
Valerie Jackson    Chelsea Brinkley    Ashley Ermold  
Naimah Rhodes    Ray Golden III    Vicki Mutter  
Michael Dziura    Regina Astheimer  
Jennifer McGraw    Rhonda Shumaker  
Robert Decker

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# Meet the Foundation Officers

**Tracey L. Brown, Ph.D.** is a Senior Lecturer of Psychology at Montgomery County Community College (Pottstown, PA). Previously, she worked as a consultant for the O'Pake Institute for Ethics, Leadership, and Public Service (Reading, PA) on the topic of community revitalization and as a therapist at St. Gabriel's Hall (Audubon, PA).

Dr. Brown is a co-author of the book, *Nature Centered Leadership: An Aspirational Narrative*, which was nominated for "Leadership Book of the Year" by the International Leadership Association in 2014. She is a recipient of a prestigious P.E.O. Scholar Award, an international merit-based award given to women pursuing a doctoral degree. Of the scholarship winners for 2013-2014, she was selected as the Presidential Scholar in honor of P.E.O. President Maria Baseggio. She is also a recipient of a 2013 On Sustainability Graduate Scholar Award and an inaugural recipient of a Graduate Leadership Fellowship from the O'Pake Institute for Ethics, Leadership, and Public Service. Dr. Brown has her Doctorate of Philosophy in Leadership Studies with a specialization in Educational Leadership from Alvernia University (Reading, PA). She received both her Bachelor of Arts in psychology and her Master of Arts in counseling psychology from Rosemont College (Rosemont, PA) in 2003 where she won the Alumni Association Scholastic Excellence Award (valedictorian).



**President**  
**Tracey Brown**

**Ed Edwards** Since his start with Neuber Environmental Services, Inc. (NESI) in 1996, Ed Edwards has earned a respected reputation as an essential partner to the Neuber brand and family. With over 25 years experience in the Environmental and Demolition Industry, Ed incorporates a dynamic understanding of both managerial and infield expertise. As The Vice President of Operations, his responsibilities include: business development, contract pricing & negotiation, as well as management of various financial statements, including Neuber's P&L records and their Accounts Receivables and Accounts Payables.

Prior to his tenure at NESI, Ed attended high school at Spring-Ford High. Upon graduation, Ed proudly served his country in the United States Marine Corps from 1984 to 1990, and in the Pennsylvania National Guard from 1991 to 1992.

After his military career, Ed continued to support his community and those at large, sitting on the Pottstown School Board of Directors, coaching baseball for Pottstown's Little League and Babe Ruth, and eventually joining the Committee for the Pottstown's Jr and Senior Legion Baseball teams at Sundstrom Field. Fast-forwarding to present day, Ed still maintains his love of community outreach, as both a devout member of the First Baptist Church of Pottstown, and as the Vice President of Pottstown's Foundation for Education as well as the Chairman for the Foundation's Finance Committee. He still resides in Pottstown, PA with his lovely wife Carrie of 25 years, and has two children, Dante and Mary Margaret.



**Vice President**  
**Ed Edwards**

**Scott Detar** Scott is managing partner with Maillie LLP and has 39 years of experience working with closely held businesses. Scott has specific industry experience in the automotive, real estate and manufacturing areas, along with not for profit services area.

After graduating from Lehigh University, Scott joined Maillie in 1977 after three years in practice with Coopers & Lybrand. He earned his CPA in 1978 and was named a partner in 1984.

Scott is a Certified Public Accountant in Pennsylvania and is also a member of American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) and Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA).

Scott is also the Treasurer of the Emmanuel Lutheran Church, on the Board of Directors of the Pottstown Health and Wellness Foundation since 2003, and is a member and a past president of the Tri-County Area Chamber of Commerce.



**Treasurer**  
**Scott Detar**

**Melissa Shainline** is the Marketing and Administrative Director for the TriCounty Area Chamber where she had been employed since 2012.

She is a graduate of Delaware Valley College where she majored in Equine Science and Management. During her time at Delaware Valley, she studied abroad at Hartpury College in Gloucestershire, UK.

In her role with the TCACC, Melissa is responsible for creating all marketing materials related to events, program and services, organize and maintain the membership data base and updating the website. Melissa is also a member of the Leadership Tri-County Program in the Class of 2017.



**Secretary**  
**Melissa Shainline**

## Find Us Online



@FoundationPottstownEd.org



Twitter

@foundpted



Foundation for

**POTTSTOWN  
EDUCATION**

promoting opportunities for children

## WE NEED VOLUNTEERS

The Foundation for Pottstown Education is looking for volunteers to serve on the following committees:

Fund Development, Marketing, and Pottstown Pride Society.

**Fund Development:** This is our Special Events Committee with the current major event being the Annual Gala during the district wide musical. The committee will be looking at other events for the coming year. Meeting dates and times are yet to be determined.

**Marketing:** Committee meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month 10:00 -11:00 AM at the Administration Building. If you have experience or interests in helping us market our Foundation and events, this committee is for you. We will be working on a quarterly newsletter, social media including Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn as well as our website. This committee will also support our Fund Raising and Special Events.

**Pottstown Pride Society:** Whether you are an alum of the Pottstown School District or a member of our local community and have Pride in Pottstown, you are welcome to join the society. This committee meets on the second Monday of the month 4:30 PM at the Pottstown Health and Wellness Foundation Conference Room. The committee has been instrumental in the Go Fourth Sports Carnival and assisted with the Healthy Kids Day.

Other volunteer opportunities include assisting with special events such as those mentioned above and our Annual Support Campaign which will help raise money to support the Foundation's efforts in promoting opportunities for children. For further information or to volunteer, contact the Foundation Office at 610-970-6616.

**WE**   
**VOLUNTEERS**

## A Message From A Pottstown Promise Early College Graduate

Being a student from a five-square mile town, in the suburbs of Philadelphia, is not the same as being a student from a preparatory school, such as the Hill School, or a larger school, such as Owen J. Roberts High School. The amount of funding spent on each student is significantly less in the Pottstown student's case. However, all students are expected to compete at the same academic level when applying to colleges and universities. A preparatory student or a student from a large high school, with availability to courses such as physics and different types of mathematics, sciences, and even SAT prep courses, has more invested into their education than the students of Pottstown Education.

So what can we do? Do we just complain about unfair the system is? Do we put our heads down and give up? Do we fail to see our futures in reputable colleges and universities? Do we fail to become the politicians, doctors, and engineers we always aspired to be? Do we fail to become successful?

Or do we make a stand? Do we fight to change the unfair system? Do we keep our goals in sight and press on? Do we strive for academic excellence in competing for admission into those reputable universities? Do we become the best politicians, doctors, and engineers in

the world? Do we become successful?

As a student of Pottstown High School, I have first-hand witnessed the determination of our students to make that stand to become successful. I have witnessed students staying hours behind school to get tutored. I have seen those very students being involved in countless clubs, organizations, and sports. And on those very weekends, in which most people relish the breath of fresh air from the school week, I have seen our students build up their resumés by working jobs.

By performing well in academics, staying involved through community service and school organizations and sports, and even building up work experience through part-time jobs, Pottstown High School students are able to compete against any students in the U.S.

But what is the most important element, in order to be competitive, when applying to colleges? What sets Pottstown High School students apart from the rest of the students when applying to colleges and universities?

College experience, that ability to show colleges that we can excel at College level academics, while remaining self sufficient and independent. This is not only the most important element, it is also the hardest to achieve for a student, especially for students that have considerably less educational funding.

Before I was given the opportunity of the Early College Program, I had previously taken Montgomery



Community College Courses. The summer after my Freshman year of high school, I had taken two classes, Introduction to Psychology and English Composition I. The experience of taking my first college classes was unforgettable. The level of maturity and commitment to further education was quite evident. The only negative aspect I saw of that experience was that it took two summers worth of pay, from my summer job, for the 10 week experience. Nevertheless it was quite worth it.

The Early College Program, providing that level of college experience, is the most significant program I've been grateful to have been a part of. All of the college acceptances and financial aid I've been given, I can honestly say, I wouldn't have imagined it to have been this beneficial without the Pottstown Foundation for Education. That very ability to obtain college experience, up to 30 college credits worth of experience for free, is what sets the Early College Program students apart from other students in the U.S., when applying to colleges and universities.

The program was marvelous as it taught us to become independent, a crucial component when going away to college. We had to schedule meetings with our high school guidance counselors and the Montco (Montgomery County Community College) advisers. We had to be responsible for obtaining the necessary textbook vouchers, receiving the textbooks from the campus store, and making sure we could still be on time for our classes at the high school. Through making sure the textbooks were returned, earning academic grades at both the high school and the college were at least a B, we also learned how to be accountable.

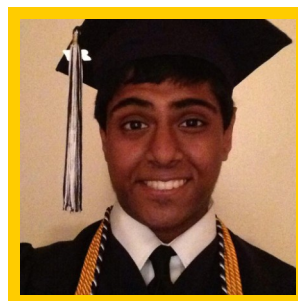
***The office of the Foundation for Pottstown Education will be closed on Friday, September 29, 2017.***

By giving the high school students a glimpse of what college level courses are going to be like, the Foundation is setting the students up for success. Throughout the program, students are also able to explore and find out what career pathways interest them. It gives them the opportunity to develop the skills, mindset, and intelligence for the jobs, positions such as nurses, writers, engineers, scientists, and doctors, they are looking to obtain in the future.

The high school guidance counselors, the Montco advisors, the administration from the Foundation, Ms. Ellis, and Mrs. McCoy were all incredible supporters of the cohorts throughout the program. With their support, the students were able to obtain up to 30 college credits. Many of the students are able to transfer these credits to their universities and colleges, and already have a head start towards their degrees. The students attending Montgomery County Community College after high school are already halfway completed their education.

The program was an extraordinary opportunity for the Pottstown High School students and I encourage the future generations to apply for this program. On behalf of the Early College Program Cohort of the Pottstown High School Class of 2017, we would like to thank all supporters and the Foundation for Pottstown Education for their commitment towards our future success.

***- Kenil Patel, Graduate of PHS Class of 2017.***



## **Jane Hamilton Retires From the Foundation**

In April of 2017, longtime Administrative Assistant for the Foundation for Pottstown Education, Jane Hamilton retired. Jane previously worked for 37 years in the Administration Building of the Pottstown School District.

Jane originally retired in 2011, then returned to the Foundation to assist Dr. Myra Forrest. Jane's favorite memory from her time at the Foundation is seeing the students of the Early College Program graduate from high school with their first year of college completed.

Since retiring Jane has enjoyed spending time at her home on the Delaware Seashore and "hanging out" with friends and family. Her future plans include taking her four grandchildren on vacations.

Jane has also agreed to serve on the PFE's Fund Development Committee.

On Behalf of the Board and Staff of Foundation for Pottstown Education and the students of the Pottstown School District, we thank Jane for the hard work and passion she shared with us. Best of luck Jane and Steve!



**Mrs. Jane Hamilton**