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**FIFTEEN SPECIAL OLYMPICS PENNSYLVANIA ATHLETE LEADERS EARN
DEGREES FROM ATHLETE LEADERSHIP UNIVERSITY**

(Norristown, PA, August 29, 2019) – Special Olympics Pennsylvania (SOPA) recently honored 15 athlete leaders who received a degree in Communication, Governance, Health and/or Sport upon their successful completion of the Athlete Leadership University. The athletes were honored at SOPA’s annual Leadership Conference Banquet at the Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center in State College, PA on Saturday, August 17, 2019.

Pursuing a degree through Athlete Leadership University is the same as pursuing one at any other university. First, an athlete declares a major and enrolls in an introductory course. Following the completion of the introductory course, the athlete then receives a certificate of course completion. Following the completion of a practicum, advanced coursework and a graduation practicum, the athlete is eligible to receive their diploma.

This program empowers athletes to become leaders in their local community, engaging in public speaking roles at local events, educating teammates about the importance of a healthy lifestyle and relaying important information from their local programs to the state office and beyond. SOPA is incredibly proud of all of the hard work and dedication demonstrated by these athletes toward earning their degrees.

A list of the Class of 2019 is as follows:

- **Lisa Barbour**, Philadelphia, Athlete Representative and Global Messenger
- **Jennifer Bottomley**, Adams, Global Messenger
- **Jack Founds**, Chester, Global Messenger
- **Troy Jackson**, Bucks, Healthy Lifestyles
- **Leanna Krogmann**, Franklin, Athlete Representative and Healthy Lifestyles
- **Meaghan Martin**, Area P, Global Messenger
- **Katie Miller**, Berks, Athlete Representative and Global Messenger
- **Chloe Phillips**, Lancaster, Athlete Representative and Healthy Lifestyles
- **Elizabeth Porter**, Bradford/Sullivan, Healthy Lifestyles
- **Sharon Quarles**, Philadelphia, Healthy Lifestyles
- **Bobbi Jo Rhen**, Lebanon, Global Messenger and Athletes As Coaches
- **Amanda Swazey**, Northumberland/Snyder, Global Messenger
- **Kyale Tulos**, Lebanon, Healthy Lifestyles
- **William Voltz**, Crawford, Healthy Lifestyles
- **Zachary Williams**, Fayette, Healthy Lifestyles

About The SOPA Leadership Awards

SOPA Leadership Award recipients were chosen by a statewide panel of business and community leaders representing both the private and nonprofit sectors. Nominations come from local Special Olympics programs throughout Pennsylvania. The event is part of a yearly Leadership Conference designed to provide ongoing training and recognition for Special Olympics athletes and volunteers.

About Special Olympics Pennsylvania

Special Olympics Pennsylvania provides year-round training and competition in 21 Olympic-type sports to more than 20,000 children and adults with intellectual disabilities. For more information on how the movement inspires greatness, visit our website at www.specialolympicspa.org.

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