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**PHILADELPHIA ATHLETES, VOLUNTEER HONORED BY  
SPECIAL OLYMPICS PENNSYLVANIA AT ANNUAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE**

(Norristown, PA, August 29, 2019) – Special Olympics Pennsylvania (SOPA) recently honored two athletes and a volunteer during its Leadership Conference Banquet at the Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center in State College, PA on Saturday, August 17, 2019. Stacy Plumbo, a Philadelphia County volunteer, won the 2019 Volunteer of the Year award, while Lisa Barbour and Sharon Quarles graduated from Athlete Leadership University with degrees in Athlete Representative/Global Messenger and Healthy Lifestyles, respectively.

Plumbo has been an integral member of Philadelphia's Special Olympics community for more than 10 years. During that time, she's conquered numerous roles, including basketball and soccer coach, event director, basketball Sports Director, Eastern Fall Sectional Head of Delegation and Summer Games Assistant Head of Delegation.

During the basketball season, Plumbo regularly attends practices at each of Philadelphia's six training sites to ensure all the coaches have everything in place that they need for success. She has given up lots of her personal vacation time to be sure that her teams are getting the best training possible and always encourages athletes to take a more direct role in coaching and being a leader in their respective sport.

"All of the athletes love her and always hope they wind up on Stacy's team each year," said Michelle Cordell, Philadelphia Sports Director.

For Barbour and Quarles, pursuing a degree through Athlete Leadership University is the same as pursuing one at any other university. Following the completion of numerous practicums and advanced coursework, 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.

**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](http://www.specialolympicspa.org).

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