

Pa State Troopers Association Issues Statement On Wolf Decision To Vaccinate Cigarette Smokers Before Troopers

By David La Torre

HARRISBURG, Pa. (Jan. 22, 2021) – Pennsylvania State Troopers Association (PSTA) President David Kennedy today issued the following statement on the Pennsylvania Department of Health’s decision to vaccinate smokers before first responders, including Troopers:

“I understand this decision comes at the recommendation of the CDC, but our commonwealth should reject this and place a higher priority on vaccinating first responders, who encounter COVID positive people every day. State troopers and first responders willingly risk their lives. If too many are stricken with the virus, public safety resources will be stretched to the brink. The commonwealth should immediately reject this tone deaf recommendation and vaccinate first responders so they can focus on doing their jobs. Pennsylvania’s new Acting Secretary of Health Alison Beam must create a vaccination plan based on common sense.”



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Bangor Area School District

Slater Standout of the Month Award



Mrs. Maria Bellis



Mrs. Jeanine Brown

Mrs. Maria Bellis

Mrs. Maria Bellis has been an employee of the Bangor Area School district for 19 years this coming February. She started her growth in the district working in the cafeteria, helping nurture our students through nutrition. She also worked as a paraprofessional within the classroom setting, providing students with academic support and teachers with assistance completing a multitude of tasks. To date, she continues to contribute to the Bangor Community through her work as an administrative assistant at the Bangor Area Middle School. In her professional capacity, she is a critical component to maintaining the continued flow of a school day. Maria’s duties include organizing teacher and paraprofessional coverage, keeping up with student daily attendance, working hand in hand with Administration when ordering and inventorying building supplies, and answering parent, student, and staff questions; to name a few. She can also be trusted to protect confidential matters that she may be privy due based on her professional responsibilities. Overall, Mrs. Bellis goes above and beyond when anyone asks her for assistance. She will not only answer a question but provide documentation to help explain the answer. If Maria cannot find an answer to a question, she will research to figure it out a suggest a viable solution. Her work is meticulous and detailed helping to keep all school matters succinct and orderly. On occasion she can even lend herself as a voice of reason; however, more often it’s her giggle that can calm a busy or stressful day. Her calm and professional demeanor, combined with a cheery disposition, help contribute to a welcoming environment in the Main Office. In all, she is a valued asset to BAMS and the Bangor community at large.

Mrs. Jeanine Brown

Mrs. Jeanine Brown is in her 25th year teaching history in the Bangor Area School District. She is not only an excellent history teacher at the high school, but also serves as the Student Government Association advisor. Working with students in the SGA, Mrs. Brown is vital to building a positive building culture for staff and students. Each year, she spends countless hours working with students to decorate the school with lights, ornaments, winter bulletin boards, and thematic trees during the holiday season. She is also instrumental in our annual pep rallies, homecoming events, and Bangor-Pen Argyl Spirit Week. Of note are the signs that have become a part of tradition here at the high school which cover the areas outside the gymnasium or hallways. The time and energy she puts towards SGA makes Bangor Area High School a better place for our students. Within the classroom, Mrs. Brown holds students to a high standard where they are routinely engaged in critical and open discussions. Through her encouragement, whether in SGA or in the classroom, students leave our high school as better people. We are very proud to have Mrs. Brown be our December 2020 Slater Standout!

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