

# East Stroudsburg South High School Special Olympics

By Larkin Richards

East Stroudsburg – East Stroudsburg High School, a Special Olympics Pennsylvania (SOPA) Unified Champion School, will host a special banner presentation to acknowledge the school's national recognition for providing inclusive sports and leadership activities for students with and without intellectual disabilities. The event will take place at 1 p.m. on Thursday, December 21, 2023, at the high school.

A Special Olympics Unified Champion School receiving National Banner recognition is one that has demonstrated commitment to inclusion by meeting 10 national standards of excellence. These standards were developed by a national panel of leaders from Special Olympics and the education community. The same national certifying panel reviewed school applications from throughout the country and found East Stroudsburg South High School to be a National Banner School because it has a very inclus

**Special  
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For over 29 years, East Stroudsburg South has dedicated their school to inclusive efforts. From attending the 2022 Special Olympics USA Games to Rain Rallies to Glow in the Dark volleyball, East Stroudsburg South has been and will continue to be an inclusive place for all students.

"East Stroudsburg South is receiving National Banner recognition because of their hard work and tireless dedication to celebrating diversity, inclusion and acceptance," said Matt Aaron, Special Olympics Pennsylvania President & CEO. "To hang this banner is a true testament to the extraordinary efforts and initiatives East Stroudsburg South promoted in the honor of Unified opportunities. Their community is so deserving of this celebration, and we are so proud."

"This honor represents the ultimate inclusion. A school body that accepts, supports, and celebrates everyone. While there is so much here to be proud of, it's the 'Whole School Engagement' that thrills me the most," said Matt Trilio, East Stroudsburg South High School principal. "A lot of hard work went into this, and the results showcase what a great group of students and staff we have here at East Stroudsburg South High School. A big thank you needs to go out to all our staff that played a role in everything from Unified Sports to Special Olympics events, and an even bigger thank you to our student athletes who participated, and our students who showed up in support of them. Go Cavs! "

Unified Champion Schools intentionally promotes meaningful social inclusion by bringing together students with and without intellectual disabilities to create accepting school environments through utilizing three interconnected components: Interscholastic Unified Sports, Inclusive Youth Leadership, and Whole School Engagement. As many as 19.5

## Boscola Named to City & State Pennsylvania Impact 75

By Kurt J. Derr

HARRISBURG – Noting her centrist policy positions and introduction of legislation with bipartisan support, City & State PA named Senator Lisa Boscola as one of the Commonwealth's Impact 75, a list comprised of the Commonwealth's most influential difference makers.

"It is an honor to be named to a list of individuals from across Pennsylvania who are making such a difference on a daily basis for countless Pennsylvania residents," Boscola stated. "I have always felt that our citizens deserve leadership that focuses on common-sense, middle of the road policies

that benefit all Pennsylvanians. Our political climate has become too extreme that needs to be reined in back to where we better address the issues impacting the everyday lives of Pennsylvanians."

The Impact 75 is a list of Pennsylvanians who "(t)hrough their efforts, communities across the commonwealth are becoming more equitable, sustainable and prosperous."

The profile listed her sponsorship of bills with bipartisan support dealing with "women veterans' health care and voting modernization and has championed referenda on expanding nondiscrimination protections and ensuring reproductive choice."

City and State PA is a multimedia news organization that dedicates its coverage to Pennsylvania's state and local government and as part of its coverage compiles "Power Lists" to bring attention to Pennsylvanians who are working to make a difference in the Commonwealth.

Senator Boscola's full profile on the Impact 75 list can be found at:

<https://www.cityandstatepa.com/power-lists/2023/12/2023-impact-75/392589/>



Totts Gap Arts Institute (TGAI) is now accepting grant proposals from organizations presenting arts programming in the 10 municipalities of the Slate Belt region.

Founded in 2006, the mission of TGAI is to nurture artists of all ages, and to awaken the excitement, passion, and possibility of the fine and performing arts by supporting classes, helping to showcase talent, and supporting events that will infuse our community and the region with a love and respect for the creative process.

Grants will be awarded to qualifying organizations for programs that provide educational opportunities, or support cultural events, such as performances.

Granted programs can be for any age group, and are open to any federally-designated (501)(c)(3) non-profit organization that agrees to follow the grant requirements and stipulations.

Individuals seeking to present programs are advised to seek a partner organization to host the event.

Program requirements:

- i) Program must be open to any resident of the Slate Belt.
- ii) Program must comply with TGAI's mission and values of inclusiveness and accessibility.
- iii) Program must be hosted in an ADA complaint facility.
- iv) Classes will have no fee.
- v) Performances will have reduced rates available for students and seniors.
- vi) Preference will be given to group activities over serving individuals.
- vii) Programs will not promote any religious or political agenda.
- viii) Program staff, performers, etc. do not need to be residents of the Slate Belt, but the event must take place in the community.

Grant value: up to \$5,000. To apply, follow the link below, and email the completed application to [arts@tottsgap.org](mailto:arts@tottsgap.org).

<http://tottsgap.com/apply-for-funding>