Hannah Brock is the Human Resources Specialist and Public Relations Officer for the City of St. Marys. Hannah was born in Juneau, Alaska, but she considers Pennsylvania her home. She grew up in East Buffalo Township in Union County, PA and graduated from Lewisburg Area High School in 2012. After high school, Hannah attended St. Vincent College in Latrobe PA, which she graduated with a bachelor’s degree in Communication in 2016.

Following graduation, she moved to Slate Run, PA to work as a sales associate for Wolf’s General Store located in the PA Grand Canyon. Her love for the Pennsylvania outdoors was fostered by the Pine Creek Valley’s many trails dedicated to hiking, biking, and even fly-fishing on the freshwater streams. Hannah learned about the retail industry through Wolf’s General Store and experienced the firsthand benefits eco-tourism can impart on a small rural community. This led to involvement with the PA Wilds Marketing Advisory Committee which she joined while in Slate Run.

In December 2017, Hannah’s love for the PA Wilds led her to move to St. Marys, PA which located in northwest Pennsylvania in Elk County. St. Marys has been the home of Hannah’s family for over 5 generations. She began her job as Human Resources Specialist and Public Relations Officer with the City of St. Marys on February 19th, 2018 and currently works under the direction of the City Manager. Her experience with Human Resources in St. Marys has given an insight into the challenges facing municipalities all across the state. Hannah has utilized her experience to promote the area of St. Marys, PA and encouraging tourism of the St. Marys area through social media.

As a member of RULE XVIII, Hannah hopes to continue to learn about the dynamic world of municipal government and tourism throughout the state of Pennsylvania. She hopes these experiences through RULE will allow her to help her own city of St. Marys and her community of Elk County.
Madra L. Clay  
Central Regional Director  
Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED)  
Governor’s Center for Local Government Services

Madra Clay grew up in the City of Philadelphia and learned many lessons in life by playing basketball on the local playgrounds. She turned that skill into a scholarship and played basketball in college. The love of sports helped Madra gain a competitive spirit which she has used to challenge herself in all aspects of life.

Madra is the Central Regional Director with the Governor’s Center for Local Government Services. Madra has worked in a variety of roles at DCED including overseeing a federal entitlement program to address the needs of low income families, managing a multimillion-dollar statewide homelessness program designed to get individuals and families rapidly housed or to prevent them from becoming homeless, and a statewide training program for municipal officials. Prior to her 18 years of public service, Madra worked for some profit and non-profit organizations.

Madra hold a Master’s in Business Administration with a specialization in Leadership from Capella University and a BA in Psychology from Millersville University. She considers herself a lifelong learner and is always seeking new ways to learn.

When seeking alternative interests, Madra enjoys traveling, billiards, cooking, and trying different foods. She considers herself a foodie and has traveled all the way to Argentina to eat food at a restaurant owned by a famous chef because she thought it may be good. To feed her competitive nature, Madra continues to participate in sports when possible. Last year, she randomly did a 5k, a 10k, and a 15k with no training. She has hiked 10 miles on a whim because someone said she couldn’t. However, most importantly, she is a professional boxing official with the Pennsylvania State Athletic Commission. Madra loves the sport of boxing.

Madra currently lives in Lancaster, PA and has a son.
Artist and amateur baker, Holly is a lightly seasoned graphic designer at Pennsylvania Farm Bureau. She lives in the quaint town of Mt. Holly Springs of Cumberland County. Always willing to learn, she graduated at the top of her class at Harrisburg Area Community College (HACC) with an associate in applied science degree for graphic and interactive design. An art lover from birth she was the president of the National Art Honor Society (NAHS) in high school and served as the secretary of the Society of Student Designers (SSD) in college. Outside of her creative world she is taking one class at a time towards an associate for business management.

Holly admires her town and has been a part of a variety of local community-based projects and events. She captures new experiences with a camera and relaxes with a warm cup of honey water.
Susan Elks, AICP
Program Manager, Balancing Nature and Commerce
The Conservation Fund

Susan has expertise in community and environmental planning and policy, with extensive knowledge of natural and cultural resources. She builds consensus with facilitation and collaborative work to advance projects and achieve lasting results, with a focus on communication, team and project management, and program development. She has public, private, and non-profit experience, and currently is the Balancing Nature & Commerce Program Manager with The Conservation Fund.

At The Conservation Fund, Susan oversees the Fund’s portfolio of Balancing Nature & Commerce activities, providing plan development, training, and technical assistance. Susan’s work supports environmental, economic, and social outcomes through facilitation and partner collaboration. Her work includes gateway community initiatives, diverse constituent engagement, and development of actionable plans. Susan is currently working on planning efforts at the eastern gateway to Zion National Park and technical training for the U.S. Biosphere Network through the National Park Service.

Previously Susan served as the Community Planning Director for the Chester County Planning Commission, leading a division of eight that interacted with municipal, environmental, civic, business, and historic preservation partners to implement the county comprehensive plan, and she administered a grant program for municipal and regional planning. Susan was the Project Manager for the development of the county’s 2018 comprehensive plan, coordinating an internal team, the stakeholder process, a steering committee, and multiple public engagement opportunities. Prior to her work in community planning, Susan’s experience included extensive work on National Environmental Policy Act projects across the Mid-Atlantic and time with a county planning department in coastal North Carolina.

Susan has a graduate degree in Geography, focused in Environmental Planning, and an undergraduate degree in Environmental Studies, with significant training in facilitation and mediation. She is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners and is active with the PA Chapter of the American Planning Association, currently serving as chair of its Student Engagement Committee. Susan is also a Senior Fellow with the Environmental Leadership Program, and is currently serving as a steering committee member for her local fire company in their effort to develop a new strategic plan.

Susan lives in Unionville, where she grew up, with her husband and two children. They enjoy canoeing and hiking and are active with Boy Scouts. Susan enjoys writing, traveling to any of the national parks, and spending time in northcentral Pennsylvania.
Kelsey Feeg  
*Loan Officer*  
*MidAtlantic Farm Credit*

Kelsey has spent the last 2 years working in agricultural finance and banking. As a loan officer with MidAtlantic Farm Credit, she works with farmers across seven counties in southeastern Pennsylvania. In this role, she assists farming operations of varying sizes and commodities across the region, working alongside agricultural producers to find solutions to meet their financing needs. In 2019, she was named “Rookie of the Year” among her peers on MidAtlantic Farm Credit’s sales team.

Prior to joining the team at Farm Credit, she spent a short period of time working as a project associate for an environmental consulting firm in Berks County, Pennsylvania. In this role with ClimeCo Corporation, she worked to monitor opportunities for bio gas digestion projects on dairy and livestock operations across the country.

Kelsey’s interest in business and agriculture is reflected in her courses of study as well. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Science, with a minor in Agribusiness from Delaware Valley University (Doylestown, PA). She also holds a Master’s Degree in Business Administration from Wilkes University, where she studied for two years while also serving as the Graduate Assistant Coach for the women’s field hockey team.

Prior to her professional life, Kelsey played field hockey at the high school and collegiate level competing for a total of 13 consecutive years. She also spent many years studying music. A lifelong resident of Oley Valley in Berks County, PA – she enjoys being involved in her community, including Friedens United Church of Christ where she serves on the budget committee, and sings in the church choir. Kelsey also enjoys camping with her husband, Joe and spending as much time as possible with her dog, Samson.
Allyson Gibson serves as the Director of Strategic Partnerships and Program for the Lancaster Clean Water Partners, facilitating collaboration between a unique set of cross-county partners who are working to improve local water quality. Allyson spent her childhood in Lancaster County, exploring streams, investigating local culture, and growing up in her family’s business. She pioneered at the University of Richmond as the only female member of the first class of environmental studies majors and then spent 13 years in Maryland with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation in their Education Department. She returned to her roots and served as the Innkeeper at Kitchen Kettle Village before bringing all of her worlds together with the Lancaster Clean Water Partners.

Allyson is currently a scholar in Penn State’s Rural Urban Leadership (RULE) Program and is the co-director of Lancaster’s Watershed Leadership Academy. She also serves as a Partner for Place with the Lancaster County Planning Commission, and received the Business Partner Award from the 21st Century Education Foundation in 2015.

Recently a participant on the district’s comprehensive planning team, Allyson engages with her local schools and serves on the PTO and Superintendent’s Layperson Advisory Committee at Manheim Township School District. Along with her husband and two children, Allyson lives in Lancaster and enjoys travel, fitness, and local foods.
Sarah Keller
Constituent Services Representative
Office of State Senator John DiSanto

Sarah Keller is a Constituent Services Representative who works with the Office of State Senator John DiSanto to help the constituents of Perry County. She enjoys the challenge of finding solutions for the unique concerns that each constituent brings to her rural office, allowing her to effect change for the better in her community.

In her previous work life, Sarah was an office manager for a small family-owned business in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, where she lived for 15 years. It was during this time that Sarah’s passion for serving her community and church blossomed. She has served on three missions trips to the Lakota Sioux tribe of the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. She also volunteered at many community outreaches and delved into the political realm as a campaign treasurer and campaign manager.

Sarah left Williamsport in 2016 when she married her husband, Bryan.

Sarah is a member of RULE XVIII of Penn State’s Leadership Program. She holds an associate degree in Accounting from the Pennsylvania College of Technology.

A native of Ontario, Canada, Sarah now lives in beautiful Perry County with her husband and their delightful Doberman, Bosun. She is an active member of Christ Community Church in Camp Hill, and a member of the Perry County Chamber of Commerce. Sarah also enjoys exercising, reading, and dreaming up exciting projects of all kinds.
Jodi Keith Kensinger
Radiology Technician, Geisinger Health System
Dairy Farm Wife

Jodi Keith Kensinger and her husband Ben, live on his family’s 4th generation dairy farm in Martinsburg, in the heart of Blair county. Presently, they have 2 cats, Muffy and Casper and a barn full of Holsteins, 1 Lineback cow and many cats to go around.

For the last 12 years, Jodi has been a full-time employee with Geisinger Health System as a staff Radiology tech, working in their mammography department at the Grays Woods office. Jodi is also a pampered chef consultant and loves to capture memories with her camera. In her free time, she is heavily involved with the Grange, recently being elected as PA State Grange Chaplin, and stays active in her church as a fill-in Sunday school teacher and holiday planner. She also helps with the local dairy promotion activities and 4H projects in her community.

Jodi has many hobbies that keep her occupied as well- which includes spending time with her family (especially her grandpap Harry) and friends; listening and reading new books; scrapbooking; visiting and exploring new places when time allows; and gardening along side her grandpap Harry.
Greg Lander
Vice President
Klapec Trucking Company (KTC)

Greg Lander is a Venango County native who attended St. Stephen Elementary school and Oil City High School. Greg earned a Bachelor degree in Business Management from Penn State Erie, the Behrend College. Greg is the Vice President of Klapec Trucking Company (KTC) in Reno, PA. Greg began at Klapec Trucking when he was eight by mowing grass and washing trucks, then got his CDL when he turned 18 and drove daily. Now he is the 3rd Generation leading the company. He and his team have successfully moved loads 15'10" high, 23 feet wide, and 114' long, as well as, the many normal daily legal loads. Greg always enjoys the good challenge these loads bring. Klapec Trucking Company has received many awards, like the President’s Award, which goes to the safest trucking company in Pennsylvania each year from the Pennsylvania Motor Truck Association. Klapec Trucking Company also has many awards from Great West Casualty Insurance company for being one of their top safety conscious companies. Greg enjoys driving the KTC trucks in the local parades and transporting the City of Franklin Christmas tree. He serves as an active member of St. Stephen Church where he is a Greeter and helps with the annual St. Stephen Heritage Festival. He volunteers at St. Stephen School by helping with the student swim classes and the Reverse Raffle. Greg sits on the YMCA Scenic Rivers Board and is active in the YMCA, where he is a certified swim official, volunteering at the swim meets. Greg married his best friend, Tracy Hersman, and together have 2 kids, a boy and a girl. Together as a family, they enjoy camping, atv riding, hiking, shooting, boating/skiing, and really anything outdoors. Coming from a family of trucking experts, Greg enjoys providing a safe reliable solution to the many loyal customers looking to ship material around the United States and Canada, and enjoys the challenge that keeping 100 people employed brings each day.
Douglas Benjamin Lapp
Lapp Farms, LLC

Douglas Benjamin Lapp is a farmer in Southeastern Pennsylvania. He is a partner in Lapp Farms, LLC with his father, Douglas Melvin Lapp. They also work alongside Doug’s grandfather Melvin Lapp growing corn, soybeans, and wheat as well as raising chickens for Tyson Foods. The Lapps have called the same farmstead home since 1942. Doug is the fourth generation to be involved in the farming operation.

Since graduating from Lebanon Valley College in May of 2015 with a business administration degree, Doug has been very active in local policy discussions. He has served on the Chester/Delaware County Farm Bureau Board of Directors since October of 2018 and was elected as the Chester/Delaware County Farm Bureau Second Vice-President in October of 2019. As a member of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, Doug created a policy to bring together a compromise on two of the most contentious issues within the organization: Sunday Hunting and Private Property Rights. Doug’s policy laid the groundwork for the creation of Senate Bill 147, which allowed for hunting on Sundays in limited instances while also increasing the strength of Pennsylvania’s trespass laws. Senate Bill 147 was signed into law in November of 2019.

Farming is not the only tradition in the Lapp Family. Doug is currently the Captain of the Cochranville Fire Company where his father spent 10 years as Chief followed by 5 years as president and his grandfather served for over forty years as the Treasurer.Joining the Cochranville Fire Company at age 14, Doug has accumulated well over 300 training hours becoming nationally certified in a wide variety of specialties. Along side Doug in the fire service is his sister, Elizabeth who also has been a member since she was 14 and is qualified as an interior firefighter.

Doug spends his spare time as a sportsman. He plays around one hundred softball games a year on multiple teams during the summer. In the fall and winter, Doug and his family enjoy spending time outdoors hunting on the farm for white tailed deer or shooting sporting clays.

While priding himself on being a well rounded individual, Doug is most proud of his wife, who is a middle school math teacher, and their opportunity to continue the family legacy by operating the family farm into the future.
Tiffany Chang Lawson was appointed Director of the Bureau of Campaign Finance and Civic Engagement at the Pennsylvania Department of State on February 9, 2019. Her responsibilities are to lead the bureau in their support of candidates for statewide, legislative and judicial offices, and political committees registered in Pennsylvania to maintain transparency and the confidence of the public. They also support registered lobbyists, lobbying firms, and principals in Pennsylvania with their registration statements and quarterly expense reports to achieve compliance and transparency. Lastly, she leads the bureau’s civic engagement work which seeks to improve participation in the electoral process so that all Pennsylvanians can take pride knowing their voices are heard and their votes counted.

Prior to joining the Department of State, Tiffany served as Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Governor’s Advisory Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs where she oversaw strategic development for the Commission which serves as the Commonwealth’s advocate agency for the diverse Asian American and Pacific Islander communities across the state. She led and oversaw operations, policy and legislative initiatives, communications, and established and strengthened key partnerships with community-based organizations, local, state, and federal government agencies.

Tiffany is a life-long Pennsylvania resident. She was born and raised in Pittsburgh, PA but moved to Hershey, PA when she was eight years old to attend the Milton Hershey School (MHS).

During her sophomore year at MHS, she was selected to become a Rotary Youth Exchange Student and was sponsored by the Hershey Rotary Club during her junior year to study in the Republic of Hungary for an entire academic year. After graduating from MHS, Tiffany pursued her undergraduate studies at Dickinson College located in Carlisle, PA. During her time at Dickinson College, Tiffany spent a year in Beijing, China studying at Peking University where she pursued advanced Chinese language and cultural studies. Tiffany graduated from Dickinson College with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in a Self-Developed Major of Global Feminisms and a minor in Chinese Language.

In 2015, she received President Barack Obama’s Volunteer Service Award that recognizes volunteers who have made an indelible impact through their service to their communities. In 2018, she received the Philadelphia 76ers Game Changer Award that recognizes and celebrates the power of mentorship and honors local individuals and organizations that have helped develop the potential of the next generation. Tiffany serves on the Board of Directors of St. Stephen’s Episcopal School, and the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence.

She resides in the Harrisburg area with her partner, Richard and their dog, Bella.
Hillary Lyle

Program Officer

PA CareerLink System/SCPa Works

An environmental steward turned workforce development professional; Hillary began her career in workforce development while pursuing her Masters of Public Administration at The Pennsylvania State University in 2016. Hillary has served on the front lines of the PA CareerLink system, serving as a job seeker specialist and community outreach professional. Working not only for her local community, but with them, pushed Hillary into the role of Site Administrator where she oversaw the daily operations of the organization, managed community relationships throughout the county, and ensured that the 30,000 annual customers experienced seamless service delivery. Hillary is passionate about connecting job seekers, employers, and service providers to the great resources available to them in the PA CareerLink system and has worked intimately with veterans, returning citizens, dislocated workers, and employers.

Hillary Lyle currently serves as the Program Officer for SCPa Works, the local workforce development board that oversees the PA CareerLink system in: Adams, Lebanon, Franklin, Dauphin, Cumberland, Perry, Juniata, and York counties. In this role, Hillary is responsible for oversight of all youth programming in the eight county region. Hillary utilizes her years of experience in the front lines of the PA CareerLink system to develop and maintain meaningful programming, policies, and goals for the region.

Hillary currently resides in beautiful Perry County, PA with her husband, Chase and corgi, Lily. In her free time, she enjoys gardening, hiking, and experiencing all the beauty of Pennsylvania.
Tara Mondock  
*Associate Director of Client Relations*  
*Penn State Extension*

As a member of the Executive Leadership Team at Penn State Extension, Tara Mondock is responsible for driving awareness of the breadth of Extension programs, products and services that are available, defining local issues and needs, and engaging with Extension program teams to bring the full resources of Extension forward to address those issues. She’s been a champion in driving for a more agile organization that is responsive to community needs and is passionate about expanding the reach, maintaining the relevancy, and expanding the delivery of extension programs and services. Mondock leads the team that is tasked with positioning Penn State Extension and the College of Agricultural Sciences to deliver on the land-grant mission resulting in a vibrant food and fiber system, a clean environment, and a healthy population for Pennsylvania.

Mondock assumed her current position in spring of 2017 with a solid background in business administration and marketing. Prior to joining Penn State Extension, she was Chief Revenue Officer and Senior Vice President for Strategic Partner Sales at eSolutions, a healthcare billing and data analytics company headquartered in Overland Park, Kansas.

Throughout her 25 year career in Healthcare IT, Mondock has excelled in various service, sales and sales-management positions. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration and Marketing from Western Carolina University and is a graduate of Stanford University Graduate School of Business Executive Program in Leadership.

She is a member of the Order of the Eastern Star, a member of the local, state and national Grange, a member of Pennsylvania Farm Bureau and serves on the board for Centre County Farm Bureau.

Living in Lemont, PA and married to her husband of 26 years, Marty, she is also Mom to son, Tyler and twin girls, Maya and Marissa.
Cindy Nellis
Director
Clarion University
Small Business Development Center

Cindy Nellis has been with the Clarion University SBDC for over 24 years and specializes in market and industry research, financial analysis, business plans, and strategic planning. She has consulted with clients in many different industries, including manufacturing, retail, service, and tourism. Cindy also leads training seminars for the Center’s educational programs where she uses her desire of teaching entrepreneurial skills to prospective entrepreneurs, business owners, and key management team members.

Prior to joining the SBDC, Cindy worked in retail banking for 10 years. She completed the management training program with Huntington National Bank in Columbus, Ohio, was the Assistant Vice President and Manager for Mellon Bank, in Clarion, Pennsylvania, and completed the Graduate School of Retail Bank Management from the Consumer Bankers Association. She graduated with a finance degree from The Ohio State University in 1988. Cindy is a first-generation college graduate and one of her proudest moments was the day she earned her MBA from Clarion University in 2016.

Cindy has always been an active volunteer. Currently, she is on the Advisory Board for S & T Bank, a member of the Clarion Rotary, and leads the First Impressions Team at Zion Church as well as the kitchen crew at Zion’s Kidz Camp every summer.

Cindy enjoys staying active by running, working out, hiking, and biking. She completed her 7th half marathon in 2019. Cindy lives in Clarion, PA with her husband Ken and they have three adult children: Luke, Seth, and Brianna, and son-in-law, Camron.
Karen O’Neill
Local Government Policy Specialist
Governor’s Center for Local Government Services
Department of Community & Economic Development
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Karen O’Neill joined the Governor’s Center for Local Government Services in the Department of Community and Economic Development in February 2007 as a Local Government Policy Specialist. She manages the Municipal Statistics database and directs a team of data entry and municipal support staff. The Municipal Statistics database is used extensively by researchers, legislators, businesses and the general public.

With over 20 years of experience in municipal government, Karen has worked in various Third-Class City municipal government departments, including Public Safety, Finance and the Office of the Treasurer. During the course of her tenure in the Office of the Treasurer, Karen served in the positions of Assistant Deputy Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer.

Karen is a 2012 graduate of the Commonwealth’s Leadership Development Program (LDI). She served on the LDI Alumnae Association’s Board as Treasurer from 2015-2017.

She received her BA degree from West Chester University and a Diploma in Accounting from Elizabethtown College.

Karen, a native of Pennsylvania, currently resides in Hampden Township with her husband, Mark. They have a daughter, Rachael, who currently resides in Colorado.

In her spare time, Karen enjoys hiking along parts of the Appalachian Trail and kayaking on the Conodoguinet Creek with her husband, Mark. She looks forward to her annual visit to Colorado where she and her daughter always make time for hiking in the Rocky Mountains.
Mary Pritchard  
*School Psychologist*  
*Nazareth Area School District*

Mary has worked in the field of psychology for 37 years. She was initially employed by the New Jersey Department of Corrections as a Clinical Psychologist and Hostage Negotiator. For the past 24 years, Mary has worked as a School Psychologist in Pennsylvania. Mary is currently employed by Nazareth Area School District.

She completed a Bachelors degree in Psychology at Millersville University, a Masters degree in Clinical Psychology at Towson State University, a School Psychologist certificate at Rutgers University, and a Supervisor of Pupil Personnel Services certificate at Lehigh University. Mary has been a Pennsylvania Licensed Psychologist for 27 years and is passionate about using her clinical skills to support youth experiencing mental health and learning challenges.

Mary has been a champion for Aevidum, a student driven suicide prevention and positive school culture initiative since 2015. As advisor to the Aevidum Program at Nazareth Area High School Mary has assisted student leaders in sharing Aevidum's message of empowerment with over 2500 middle and high school students by facilitating “Talk Workshops” throughout the state of Pennsylvania and more recently at the International Institute for Restorative Practices World Conference in October 2019. Due to those efforts in 2018, Mary was awarded The Pennsylvania Association of Pupil Services Administrators Distinguished Service Award for her contributions in the field of pupil services as it related to her work with Aevidum. Nazareth Area High School was awarded Aevidum Club of the Year for 2019. Mary also serves on the Board of Directors for Aevidum National.

Mary has been married to her college sweetheart Barry for 37 years. Together they have raised a daughter, Flo and a son, Andrew. Barry and Mary enjoy spending time together at their home in Nazareth, PA, traveling and visiting with their family which now also includes a son-in-law, Keith and two grandchildren, Helena and Mackinley.
Abigail Roberts
Planner & Development Coordinator
City of Lock Haven, Pennsylvania

Abigail Roberts works as the Planner & Development Coordinator for the City of Lock Haven, a third-class city located in Clinton County, Pennsylvania. In her position, she works to apply for and administer grants that support projects in the City. She oversees programs that relate to Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), business, community, and residential development, as well as the local airport. Abigail enjoys listening to the community and focusing her efforts toward their wants and needs.

A graduate from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Abigail is interested in the relationship between people and the built environment. She utilizes her Bachelor’s degree in Regional Planning to bridge the gap between what people want to see in their community and the goals of local government. In addition to her degree, she holds a certificate in Unmanned Aerial System Sciences and Applications and complementary Remote Pilot License that allows her to fly Unmanned Aerial Systems, commonly known as drones, safely and professionally.

In her personal time, Abigail enjoys sight-seeing in both built and natural environments with friends and family. She lists her time spent abroad in Rajasthan, India as one of the most life-changing experiences because of the people she was able to meet and places she was able to explore.
Maggie Robertson
Farmer Advocate
Propagation Manager, Furnace Creek Farm

Maggie Robertson lives in a 3-generation household in Oley, Berks County. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Parks and Recreation Resources Management from Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania, and a Master of Arts in Geographic Information Systems and International Development from Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts.

She has served on the Steering Committee for the Pennsylvania Women in Agriculture Network (PA_WAgN), and on the boards of the Pennsylvania Farmers Union (PFU), and the Clarion County League of Women Voters. She is a long-time member of the Women Food and Agriculture Network (WFAN), and the Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture (PASA). Maggie is an Oxfam Sisters on the Planet Ambassador.

Maggie met her husband in Poland, while they were both serving as volunteers in the Peace Corps. They have been married for 25 years, and have two daughters: Claire, 14, and Evelyn, 11. Among her many adventures, Maggie and her husband had a farm in Clarion County for 16 years, followed by 3 years running a bed and breakfast in Upstate New York, before returning to her roots in the Oley hills. She is currently the Propagation Manager for Furnace Creek Farm, and still figuring out what she wants to be when she grows up.
Samantha Robison works for Penn State Extension as a Dairy Educator based in Cumberland County, but serves on the statewide Extension Dairy Team. She received her Bachelor’s degree in Agricultural Sciences from Penn State in addition to two minors in Environmental Inquiry and Agronomy.

After graduation, Samantha went to work for one of the world’s largest dairy manufacturers, Schreiber Foods in Richland Center, Wisconsin. Her responsibilities included managing 9 different production lines producing various types of Yogurt. After several years in Wisconsin, Samantha returned to Pennsylvania to take a position with Pennsylvania Farm Bureau. As the Director of Training in the Member Services Division, Samantha developed and implemented trainings for new staff and current staff members. She serviced clients throughout the agricultural sector, for whom she was responsible for providing professional services to meet their financial and business needs.

Samantha is an active Extension volunteer in Adams County where she has worked closely with 4-H program. She also raises future assistance puppies for Paws With a Cause, a non-profit organization who enhances the independence and quality of life for people with disabilities nationally through custom-trained Assistance Dogs. Samantha enjoys traveling and hiking with her yellow lab. She is currently working on her master’s degree from Penn State University in Homeland Security with a focus on Agricultural Biosecurity and Food Safety Defense.
Melissa Roma was born in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania. In 2001, she joined the U.S. Army Reserves and served just less than eleven years, with two of those years serving on Active Duty in Fort Drum, NY under Operation Enduring Freedom. Melissa received her Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management in 2007 from Kutztown University. In 2014, she went on to complete her Master of Science degree in Organizational Development and Leadership from Shippensburg University.

Melissa joined USDA Rural Development in 2014 and has held positions of Secretary to the State Director, Special Projects Coordinator, Public Affairs Specialist and the current position of Management and Program Analyst. Her previous positions included Automated Logistical Specialist for the US Army, Career Counselor for the US Army, Office Manager for a small business Optometric office, Center Manager for a non-profit health clinic, and Operations Manager for a highly recognized health and fitness club. Melissa has over twelve years’ experience in accounts payable, record keeping, customer service, executive scheduling and management and employee development.
Stephanie Roscinski
Owner
Central Wedge Cheese Shop

In 2019, Stephanie started Central Wedge Cheese Shop, a small business that sells Pennsylvania-produced farmstead, artisan and specialty cheeses. Her long-term goal for the cheese shop is to open a retail location in Carlisle, Pa., that hosts cheese-related classes. "It's really rewarding to share cheesemaker's stories and cooking tips with my customers," Stephanie explained. "It changes how they view their food and how they make food choices."

Stephanie grew up working in her family's bakery business, Beeman's Baked Goods. Stephanie earned her bachelor’s degree at Penn State University, majoring in Agribusiness Management. She also obtained minors in International Agriculture and Agriculture Communication. She previously worked for the Center for Dairy Excellence as the Communications Manager and with Mid-Atlantic Dairy Association as the Producer Relations Manager. She enjoyed working closely with dairy farmers to tell their story.

As a former 4-H and FFA member, Stephanie continues to support both organizations by serving on the Cumberland County 4-H Program Development Committee and Cumberland Valley Agriculture Science Advisory Board.

If you can’t find Stephanie, she is probably out in the woods. In 2019, she completed the 52 Hike Challenge, taking 52 individual treks and walking nearly 300 miles. Her most memorable hike to date was Preikestolen, known as Pulpit Rock, outside of Stavanger, Norway. Stephanie also loves to travel. She studied abroad in Chile, France and Mexico and has independently planned trips to Ireland, Norway and Mexico with friends and family.
Stephanie Shirk
Client Relationship Manager
Penn State Extension

Stephanie Shirk is the Penn State Extension Client Relationship Manager (CRM) for Area 9, which includes Lancaster, Lebanon, Schuylkill, Berks, Chester and Delaware counties. A current PA RULE (Rural-Urban Leadership) program scholar with RULE XVIII's class, Stephanie is also pursuing a graduate certificate in Penn State SMEAL College of Business Corporate Innovation and Entrepreneurship. She has worked for over 15 years as a communications consultant and non-profit organization manager for a diverse range of organizations, including New Holland Agriculture, Fritz & Associates and The Pennsylvania FFA Foundation. Prior to joining Penn State Extension, she also worked as a Development Specialist at Penn State Harrisburg for the Office of Development and Alumni Relations.

Growing up on a dairy farm in Nebraska and graduating from Millersville University with a degree in Speech Communication, Stephanie’s varied background in agriculture, communications, public relations, organizational management, development and digital media provides a solid foundation for coordinating Penn State Extension’s efforts in southeastern Pennsylvania.

Stephanie and her husband Jim have three children, Samantha, Sarah and Luke. They recently purchased the Shirk family’s Bicentennial Family Farm in eastern Lancaster County and added movie location for 'Brave the Dark' to the farm's accolades.
Andrew Smyre
Agronomist/Grain Merchandiser/Organic Farmer

Andrew Smyre was born and raised in the Susquehanna Valley of Pennsylvania. He grew up working on a diversified farm which produced no till grain, hay, commercial pepper and cucumbers and raised Red Deer for venison. After an active high school career in his local FFA chapter, Andrew attended Delaware Valley University studying Crop Science and Business. After school, Andrew returned home to the family farm and the family insurance business. After managing a branch office for the insurance business for 2.5 years, Andrew moved to Alaska to fill a lifelong desire to see the state. Andrew explored the state for 3 years and worked in oil service technologies based in Prudhoe Bay Alaska.

After marrying his long-term partner, Kimberly, he and his wife moved back to Pennsylvania to start a family and for Andrew to start a farm. In 2015, Andrew leased his first 40 acres and started Lazy Dog Farms LLC. Today Lazy Dog Farms operates on 400ac of organic land in eastern Pennsylvania. While starting his farm, Andrew worked for Perdue Agribusiness as an agronomist and organic expert. He traveled all over the US providing organic farming guidance to farmers. In 2017, Andrew formed Precizion Ag LLC with a business partner, providing agronomic consulting focusing on nutrient management, irrigation technologies, no till farming, organic farming, and regenerative ag practices. Today, Precizion Ag has two full time employees and consults in MD, DE, PA, VA, NC, MI, IL, and SD.

In addition to Precizion Ag, Andrew took a position with Anchor Ingredients in Fargo ND to develop an organic grain business. The business focused on handling organic grain in the Mid-Atlantic region augmented with organic ingredients sourced in Minnesota and North Dakota. In January of 2020, Andrew and his partners formed Tuscarora Grain Co., and the company will focus on organic and non-gmo ingredients for feed in Pennsylvania.

Andrew and Kim have a 3year old son named Lukas and reside in Mohrsville in Berks County, Pennsylvania.
Tonya St. Clair
Loan Specialist
USDA Rural Development

Tonya is a Community Facilities Loan Specialist for USDA Rural Development. She has over 14 years’ experience in working and promoting the numerous programs USDA offers. Tonya is known for her marketing and sales skills among her colleagues in the agency. She also has overseen several multi-million-dollar construction projects including an assisted living center in Bucks county and a parking garage in Schuylkill county. Tonya is a graduate of Keystone College in La Plume, PA, where she studied business. She lives in Quakertown with her partner, Tom O'Donnell and twin children Ben and Emily who will be graduating high school in 2021.
I am a farm girl at heart. Living on a farm has changed my way of life and outlook on many things. My husband and I own and operate a large custom heifer raising operation and recently ventured into growing beef as well. After having kids and they went to school, I knew I wanted a career and was not sure what that would be until an opportunity presented itself. After working in insurance for a few years, I decided to open my own agency. Delaney Insurance was started in 2017 on a wing and prayer as a total startup. We are growing each day providing personal, commercial and agribusiness insurance to our local community and surrounding areas.

When I am not busy with the kids, working at the farm or at the office, I love to be involved in the community. I currently serve as Treasurer on the Morrisons Cove Rotary Club Board and I am the head of the youth programs associated with the club. I am also a member at Clover Creek Church of the Brethren where I coordinate some of the children’s activities including the summer vacation bible school. I serve on the Farm City Committee through the Blair County Chamber of Commerce; I greatly enjoy educating others on the importance of farms. I especially enjoy educating kids about farms, I participate in Ag Literacy Week through the PA Farm Bureau and I love watching the kids learn something new.

I am always looking for things to do with my kids and enjoy spending time with them. Cooking and baking are my form of relaxation, I love to entertain! I have taught the kids it is better to have stories to tell than to have items to hold. Traveling is a true passion of mine. I have traveled to many places and have hiked many of the National Parks. I have many more locations on my list to do yet.

I am always looking for new opportunities to grow and challenge myself, as well as new adventures to experience.
Mary Tate is a Local Government Policy Manager for the Governor's Center for Local Government Services within the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development. In this role, Mary collaborates with a dedicated team to provide leadership in the administration of a comprehensive program of services that assist municipalities in navigating the day-to-day operations and challenges while also celebrating the successes of local government.

Prior to her role at DCED, Mary briefly joined the team at Fourth Economy Consulting after serving as the Field Services Coordinator for the Pennsylvania Downtown Center. In her role at Fourth Economy, Mary was tasked with managing the Allegheny Together Program, a county-wide commercial district revitalization program in Allegheny County. As the Field Services Coordinator at the Pennsylvania Downtown Center, Mary coordinated efforts to facilitate the Keystone Communities Main and Elm Street Programs in partnership with DCED and the National Main Street Center. Additionally, she provided support to numerous community and economic revitalization initiatives throughout the Commonwealth.

Tate, a native of Western Pennsylvania, has lived and worked in St. Augustine, FL and Dallas, Texas. Her professional endeavors have allowed her to gain invaluable experience in the private, public, and non-profit sectors. She and her family returned to Pennsylvania in 2016 and reside just north of Pittsburgh. Mary enjoys running, antique shopping, reading and spending time with her husband and children.

Mary graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a degree in the History of Art and Architecture and a Certificate in Historic Preservation. She attended Boston Architectural College where she earned a Master of Design Studies in Historic Preservation. With a passion for historic property redevelopment, Mary received her Historic Real Estate Development Finance Professional Certification from the National Development Council in 2019.
Mrs. Tate serves as Secretary for the Special Education Parent Advisory Committee of her local school district where she advocates for positive and equitable educational opportunities for all children. She recently joined the Young Professionals Board of HEARTH, an organization dedicated to providing safe housing and resources to women and children facing homelessness. She has served as a mentor for the Mentor Telemachus Program for the Southwestern Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association. Mary shares her love of water skiing by teaching a six-week summer youth program. She also remains involved in volunteer positions at her kids' schools and activities.

As a Pennsylvania RULE scholar, Mary strives to develop the leadership skills required to elevate those around her and to bring a positive and inquisitive attitude to each conversation she is fortunate to be a part of. She is most grateful for the opportunity to participate in the RULE Program and hopes to maintain the relationships built as a result of the diverse experiences RULE has provided.
Kristie Taylor is an educator, leader, social entrepreneur, music director, and theatre artist who actively seeks opportunities to serve others in profound and enriching ways. She has been in education for more than 20 years proudly serving several districts in the western Pennsylvania region in a variety of ways - as an afterschool program coordinator, a high school English and drama teacher, an elementary principal, and a district director of curriculum. Most recently she has returned to the classroom to teach a course on leadership to middle schoolers. She has served for several years as the Brookville Presbyterian Church Music Director and as a director and performer at various events at the Historic Marlin Opera House. Her diverse background and unique skillset serves organizations and the greater community well as she works collaboratively with other individuals to make a positive change wherever she is. She lives in Brookville, PA, with her husband Chris and their children Rees and Mallory, and their fur babies, Penny and Scout.
Jessica Trimble is the Executive Policy Specialist at the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (www.DCED.pa.gov). In this role, she assists with policy development for DCED programs and works on a broad range of intergovernmental initiatives.

Trimble has a Master of Public Administration degree from Penn State Harrisburg, a professional certification in GIS (also from Penn State), and Bachelor’s degree in Political Science from Loyola University Maryland.

Trimble grew up in Lebanon County but currently resides in Susquehanna Township, Dauphin County.
Cynthia Walters
Agricultural Program Specialist
Pennsylvania State Farm Service Agency

Cynthia Walters began her career in civil service with the United States Department of Agriculture’s Farm Service Agency as a Program Assistant in 2007. She has since advanced to Agricultural Program Specialist in the Pennsylvania State Office. Cynthia is responsible for several farm programs offered throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Her interest in agriculture began with childhood visits to her family’s dairy farm in Perry County and that interest only continues to grow. She looks forward to continuing to develop her knowledge of agriculture while providing assistance to producers through Farm Service Agency programs. A lifelong learner and supporter of agricultural and environmental sustainability, Cynthia earned her bachelor’s degree in Energy and Sustainability Policy through Penn State’s College of Earth and Mineral Sciences in December 2017. She recently served on a 2018 Farm Bill task force for dairy programs and continues to assist the National Office in this area. She spends her free time going on adventures with her partner, Terry, and their son, Desmond. They share their home with two silly pups, Panzer and Mogwai, and a dainty kitty named Ninja.
My name is Matthew Williams, and I am the founder/director of Conscious Connections Inc. (CCI), a nonprofit organization created to support individuals through academic, cultural, social and health services. CCI is an extension of my personal beliefs and professional experiences. Being raised in the church and having my first spiritual encounter at the age of six paved the way for the rest of my life. This has included working with some of the nation’s most vulnerable and underserved populations. I started out my career in social services, where I worked with physically and mentally challenged adults and children. Then I transitioned to education, accepting a position teaching at a disciplinary school in Philadelphia, PA., and later teaching special education at schools in Philadelphia and Wilmington, DE. My teaching experiences prompted me to attend Saint Joseph’s University in Philadelphia, where I received my Masters’ of Science Degree in Special Education.

In graduate school, I developed a summer camp model to service 20 emotionally challenged students. The success of this project was very encouraging, and I became more active in my local and regional community. Being recognized for my community-building efforts in and around Philadelphia and Wilmington, I was recruited and became the first African
American member of LEADelaware, an agricultural and natural resource leadership program designed to help build the next generation of leaders within the food and fiber industries.

My experience with LEADelaware is a big part of the reason why I became a member of PA RULE. If not for a trip to Washington DC in March of 2018 where I met JD and the RULE scholars, and what a lasting impression they made on me. Words cannot truly explain how I felt when I heard JD speak, but the sincerity in her voice won me over. Besides the fact that I was a PA native and currently residing in the Philadelphia metropolitan area, I knew RULE was an opportunity that I wanted to explore further. So here I am, a current RULE scholar, and my bio would not be complete if I did not talk about the five people whom I love dearly, my family. I am a husband and father of four. My children’s age’s range from one to six. Compared to most of my friends I was a late bloomer because I did not start having children until I was thirty-six years old. Who cares, I would not have it any other way! The biggest personal challenge that I have now is making sure that I set aside time to be with my family, as well as time for each individual child. I am consciously working on it, but there is still a long way to go. I hope that my experiences with RULE will help me become a better husband to my wife, father to my children, leader and mentor to all the other individuals within my scope of influence.