

People in the Community



Erin Cernuska

Bellefonte Area Middle School emotional support instructor Erin Cernuska is a finalist for Pennsylvania's 2014 Teacher of the Year. The regional winners will be announced in July with the state winner announced in late August or early September. Cernuska, 29, is one of 12 finalists, who were nominated by students, parents, colleagues, and members of the community. She has been teaching for nearly eight years.

Bellefonte Area Middle School principal Karen Krisch told the *Centre County Gazette*, "Mrs. Cernuska is a super, super star. She's very calm, very patient, and very dedicated."

Cernuska said to the *Gazette*, "I feel like you can get so much out of teaching. The basic needs of love and belonging, freedom and power, it can all come from teaching. You make

such special connections with students and can make such a huge difference in their lives."



Jill Redman

In April, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Centre County announced that Jill Redman was named to the executive director position.

She had worked for more than nine years with Atlanta Habitat for Humanity. Her most recent position with ToolBank USA "expanded her knowledge of and experience with fundraising and management."

In her new position, she'll work directly with the board of directors, community members, and Habitat staff and volunteers to forward the mission of the organization. "It was always my intention to find my way back 'home' to Habitat for Humanity," she said through a press release.

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Centre County board chair Gregory Hayes said, "Her experience with fundraising and knowledge regarding the organization and its programs will be critical for our future success."



Chris Siergiej

Penn State senior Chris Siergiej beat out eight other candidates to become the Penn State Blue Band's new drum major. Siergiej, a saxophonist, will be in his fourth season with the Blue Band.

A student in the Schreyer Honors College, Siergiej (pronounced SIR-gee) is studying mathematics and computer science. He hopes to work in the management-consulting industry.

Siergiej, who is from Harrison City, told the *Tribune Review*, "I'm definitely going to have to mentally prepare this summer to focus on just myself and completing the flip and not let the other distractions — the shouting fans, the music that's playing — affect me." **T&G**

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