

THE CASE FOR SCHOOL STADIUM PROJECT

In just under two years, the Williamsport Area School District Education Foundation has received commitments and donations totaling nearly \$2.3 million toward a \$2.7-million dollar goal to renovate what is now known as STA Stadium at Williamsport Area High School.

Dubbed as the *Return to Glory* capital campaign, the foundation-led project has been driven by a steering committee of foundation board members, community leaders, alumni and district representatives who envision the installation of an all-weather field and new eight-lane track at the high school campus, along with infrastructure upgrades.

The success of the campaign thus far is represented by the donations and commitments we've received from alumni, parents, community members, businesses and organizations, as well as state grant dollars that have pushed us ever closer to our goal.

To support and further our vision, the Williamsport Area School District recently submitted a \$3 million Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) grant to the state Department of Community and Economic Development to aid in the campaign.

If awarded the funds, the scope of the project can be stretched to accommodate the district's plans for its athletic facilities, such as new stadium lighting, addition of a field house, and re-surfacing the deteriorating tennis and basketball courts.

Currently, the 43-year-old stadium complex can only support a maximum of 30 events per year. If RACP funds are granted, the facility will be able to host more than 100 events per year — attracting sports and recreation organizations from all over North Central Pennsylvania.

Ground has broken on the downtown Williamsport development, Destination 2014, and what better way to compliment that site than with a revitalized, community-based stadium complex at WAHS?

Both venues will make the city a more attractive place for statewide and regional tournaments and events, which will provide local job opportunities, specifically in the hotel, restaurant and catering industries.

As a 501(c)(3) organization that knows the value of investing in the education and youth of our community, we believe that *Return to Glory* is a project worthy of RACP funding. If the state decides to award WASD the requested funds, it will be a tremendous benefit to the city, students and community at large.

*Williamsport Area School District Education Foundation
Board of Directors*