



THE MORGAN ACADEMIC SUPPORT CENTER  
FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES

A CASE FOR SUPPORT

*For the future*  
THE CAMPAIGN FOR PENN STATE STUDENTS

## THE MORGAN CENTER—A LEADER IN STUDENT-ATHLETE SUPPORT PROGRAMS

Throughout its history, the Morgan Center has remained committed to a simple mission: to ease student-athletes' transition to college, to assist them in the development of academic and career goals, and to support and celebrate student-athletes as they achieve those goals. Thanks to the resources, dedication, and expertise of its staff of nine academic counselors, one learning specialist, and one sports psychologist, the Morgan Center today stands as a national leader in academic and personal support services for student-athletes.



- The Penn State Alumni Association First-Year Enrichment Program provides all incoming student-athletes with a two-seminar program—one seminar to acclimate students to the University and academic culture and one that covers contemporary health topics affecting student-athletes—that eases students' transition to college and prepares them for future academic success.
- The Morgan Center regularly organizes leadership-development opportunities, such as seminars, guest speakers, and community-outreach efforts.
- Through the Study Table program, the Morgan Center supplies student-athletes with well-equipped study halls and computer labs
- The Sue Paterno Tutoring and Mentoring Program trains tutors and mentors to work with student-athletes individually and in groups and to assist them throughout their time at Penn State.
- The Nagle C.H.A.M.P.S. Life Skills Program offers student-athletes an array of drug-prevention education, life-skills training, community service, and career development opportunities throughout their collegiate careers.
- The Morgan Center's offices, the Lasch Football Building, Rec Hall, and the East Area Locker Building boast ample conference rooms and lounges for study halls, as well as a computer lab for the convenience of student-athletes.

## ACADEMIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS: SUCCESS WITH HONOR

At Penn State, the phrase “student-athlete” is taken seriously—the “student” comes first. Given their demanding practice schedules, frequent travel, and pressure to perform, our student-athletes’ lifestyles can make it difficult for them to focus on studies. Student-athletes need assistance in learning all the skills necessary for success, and Penn State provides that help through the Morgan Academic Support Center for Student-Athletes. The Morgan Center’s impact can be seen in the academic accomplishments of our student-athletes:

- Penn State student-athletes earned an 86 percent Graduation Success Rate (GSR), eight points higher than the national Division I-A average, according to the NCAA.
- Penn State student-athletes earned a federal graduation rate of 83 percent for the entering class of 1999-2000, significantly above the 64 percent national average, according to the NCAA. For the third time in the past five years, Penn State’s student-athletes posted the highest graduation rate among all 119 Division I-A public institutions.
- During the 2006 fall semester, 194 Penn State student-athletes earned a 3.50 grade point average or higher to gain Dean’s List recognition (minimum of 12 credits). A total of 433 student-athletes earned a GPA of 3.0 or above, just nine off the record. The 433 total represented a record-tying 60 percent of active student-athletes.
- Forty-four Penn State student-athletes earned All-America honors and 31 were first-team All-Big Ten.
- During the 2006-07 academic year, 245 Penn State student-athletes earned Academic All-Big Ten honors, tied for the second-highest total in the 13 years of the program. Over the past 13 years, Penn State leads all Big Ten institutions with 2,798 academic all-conference honorees.
- Eight student-athletes earned ESPN The Magazine/CoSIDA Academic All-America accolades in 2006-07, giving Penn State 129 such selections all-time, to rank No. 4 among all NCAA institutions.

Former student-athletes have gone on to professional success as business leaders, physicians, writers, artists, engineers, and scholars. With such a record, it is little wonder that the Morgan Center’s counseling and training services have become a national model for intercollegiate athletics programs.

## SUPPORTING THE MORGAN CENTER

Penn State Intercollegiate Athletics has long been distinguished by its combination of academic and athletic success. Our student-athlete's have always carried themselves with honor, respect, and commitment as they pursue success in all areas of their lives—it's the Penn State Way.

With the *For the Future* campaign, Penn State intends to guarantee that student-athletes have the resources they need to succeed today and tomorrow. To do so, the University is turning to its closest alumni and friends and asking them to use their giving to create endowed support for the Morgan Center.

Ticket sales, annual donations to the Nittany Lion Club, and other event-driven revenue can all fluctuate from year to year, and it is impossible to say today whether the next fifty years will witness the rise of new revenue sources or the decline of existing ones. Endowments, however, yield their returns in perpetuity: the initial gift is invested permanently and produces a source



of funds to which Intercollegiate Athletics can turn each year. In supplying steady income, endowments both reduce the impact of fluctuations in the department's annual operating budget and provide Intercollegiate Athletics with the resources and the flexibility to invest strategically in areas of particular need or opportunity.

The long-term benefits of endowments are clear: past donors to the Morgan Center have used their generosity for the Morgan Center Director's Position, the Nagle C.H.A.M.P.S. Life Skills Program, the Sue Paterno Mentoring Program, the Jaffe Senior Seminar, and the Penn State Alumni Association First-Year Enrichment Program, and all of these programs continue to provide great benefits to our student-athletes.

## ENDOWED NAMING OPPORTUNITIES

### **PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS: \$500,000 EACH**

The Morgan Center employs a highly-trained staff of eight academic counselors, one learning specialist, and one sports psychologist to ease student-athletes' transition to college and help them realize their full potential. Endowments to name any of these positions would provide the Morgan Center with additional resources to devote to these individuals and various programs under their supervision.

### **SAAB ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS BANQUET: \$250,000**

At the end of each year, the Morgan Center recognizes student-athletes for a year of hard work in the classroom and a career of academic accomplishments at the Student-Athlete Advisory Board (SAAB) Academic Achievement Awards Banquet. With approximately 300 individual and team awards each year, the banquet not only recognizes student-athletes for past accomplishments, but also reaffirms the program's commitment to academic excellence, establishes role models for younger students, and provides recognition and encouragement that spurs all student-athletes on to even greater things.

### **GRADUATE ASSISTANT/INTERN: \$100,000**

Given the Morgan Center's stellar record in helping student-athletes achieve their best, it is not surprising that many student-athletes wish to go on to careers that will allow them to help other student-athletes attain their educational goals. To assist student-athletes with such aspirations, the Morgan Center regularly employs Academic Graduate Assistants and interns to work with Morgan Center academic counselors, provide teaching assistance to seminars, and work with student-athletes in all of the Morgan Center's programs. These positions provide wonderful learning opportunities and give many students their first taste of a future career working with student-athletes.

#### **STUDENT-ATHLETE LAPTOP PROGRAM: \$100,000**

Each year more and more of a college student's class-work, from papers and portfolios to online research and discussion groups, becomes dependent on computers and technology. With electronic communications allowing instantaneous submission and feedback, classes do not wait for student-athletes on the road.

To help student-athletes keep up-to-date on all of their schoolwork, the Morgan Center allows student-athletes to sign out laptop computers for extended road trips. It is one of the more popular services offered by the Morgan Center, and student-athletes regularly attest to its importance.

#### **STUDENT-ATHLETE RESUME BOOK: \$100,000**

The Morgan Center assists student-athletes with their first career steps in many ways, one of which is the Student-Athlete Resume Book, a print compilation of the resumes of all student-athletes who are nearing graduation. The Morgan Center provides the Student-Athlete Resume Book to recruiters who contact Intercollegiate Athletics and the Morgan Center to learn of student-athletes who might be interested in careers with them, and also supplies copies to corporate partners and high-profile visitors at football and basketball games.

#### **STUDENT-ATHLETE ACADEMIC PLANNER: \$50,000**

For many student-athletes new to Penn State, the single greatest challenge facing them is not the physical regimen of Division I competition nor the demands of collegiate academics; it is balancing all these responsibilities. To assist student-athletes as they learn to balance competing demands in their lives, the Morgan Center gives every student-athlete an academic planner at the beginning of each year. This planner includes not only ample space to list all of a student-athlete's practices, meets, classes, study halls, and other appointments, but also an extensive section with information on Intercollegiate Athletics, campus resources at Penn State, the Morgan Center, and the NCAA. Currently, the Morgan Center works with an outside vendor to produce a small but comprehensive student-athlete academic planner.

### **SAAB LEADERSHIP-TRAINING SEMINAR: \$50,000**

Student-athletes at Penn State possess a unique blend of characteristics: determination, focus, responsibility, and a commitment to success in all areas of their lives. The Morgan Center encourages the development of these traits through a series of leadership-training seminars that prepare student-athletes for successful, principled leadership both on the playing field and in other areas of life. Regular seminar offerings include a fall retreat for members of the SAAB as well as a spring seminar, titled “Emerging Leaders,” for second- and third-year student-athletes interested in learning more about career planning and becoming an effective leader.

### **MORGAN CENTER PROGRAM ENDOWMENTS: \$50,000**

Donors can create program endowments to provide annual support to the Morgan Academic Center. The income from these endowments provides the financial resources and flexibility to adapt more quickly to changing needs and to seize new opportunities to improve the overall quality of the program.



## GIVING TO PENN STATE

As a Penn State Intercollegiate Athletics benefactor, you can use your giving to achieve personal goals, enhance your financial security, and help provide for the future of our athletics program. You can provide our teams and student-athletes with much-needed financial assistance through outright gifts of cash, securities, stock, or other property. Outright gifts have an immediate impact and are used to support our program's current needs.

In addition to outright gifts, planned giving (including bequests, charitable gift annuities, and trusts) can make charitable giving part of your total financial plan. State and federal laws encourage philanthropy by conferring tax advantages on charitable gifts. Thus, planned giving helps you receive the maximum tax benefits, enables you to make a greater gift than otherwise thought possible, and benefits your family and heirs.



## RECOGNITION SOCIETIES

The following recognition societies at Penn State acknowledge the extraordinary generosity of our donors:

- Nittany Lion Club—Donors are given the option to receive NLC priority points and benefits for gifts made in support of the Morgan Center.
- Mount Nittany Society—cumulative gifts of \$250,000 or more
- Laurel Circle—cumulative gifts of \$1,000,000 or more
- Elm Circle—cumulative gifts of \$5,000,000 or more
- Atherton Society—planned gifts of any size

As a member of one of these societies, you may receive benefits that include publications, event invitations, and commemorative gifts.

But the greatest satisfaction is the knowledge that your support is making a difference.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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