2011 LDAA Distinguished Alumni Award for Sports

Steven Spence (Class of 1980) won the 1600 meter run and set the state record at the PIAA track and field championships, becoming Lower Dauphin's first ever State Champion. He then attended Shippensburg University where he was a 7-time NCAA Division II All-American and 2-time National Champion at the 5000 meter run. Following college, he earned a living as a professional runner for 11 years during which he was the top ranked long distance runner in America from 1989 to 1992. Some career highlights include American Records at 12 kilometers (34:19) and 15 kilometers (42:40), a bronze medal in the marathon at the 1991 World Championships in Tokyo, a win at the 1992 US Olympic Marathon Trials and a berth on the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Team where he finished 12th. In addition, he set an American masters (40 and over) record for 5 miles with a time of 23:47 and at 10k with a time of 30:18 at the age of 41. Upon retirement from professional running in 1998, Steve took the reins as the Head Men's and Women's Cross Country and Track & Field coach at Shippensburg University. He has coached 70 NCAA Division II All-Americans and 11 National Champions while being selected 8 times as the NCAA Atlantic Region Coach of the Year. For anyone who has ever run, jogged or even walked, Steve serves as a model of continued commitment and excellence that few could ever hope to achieve.