



# New Jersey State Society of Physician Assistants

## NCCPA Grant Opportunities

Check out the NCCPA funding opportunities to help address prominent health concerns on page 5!



DANA'S DRAGONS

## WELCOME!

NJSSPA's vision is to be recognized and respected by the healthcare community and the public as the prominent physician assistant state organization. NJSSPA is dedicated to promoting education, advocacy and partnership to achieve quality, cost-effective healthcare.



## A bright light dimmed

Our community says goodbye to an important member after a tragic battle lost to breast cancer, page 2



PA-C's, PA-S's, and Pre-PA's are invited to network in NJSSPA's

## PA Mentorship Program

Want to be a mentor or mentee? Check your email and fill out the attached google form.



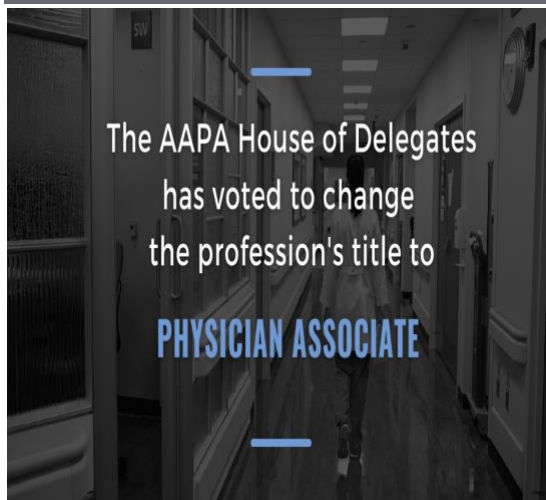
Looking to be a mentor? Join our mentorship program! It's open to PAs, PA students and Pre-PAs. Fill out [this](#) form and submit it to get involved!

## What's coming up?

Check out more information on upcoming events, webinars and more on page 6!

The AAPA House of Delegates has voted to change the profession's title to

**PHYSICIAN ASSOCIATE**





**In Memory of Dana Cafaro**

Associate Director of the Jefferson University Physician Assistant Program

**DANA'S DRAGONS**

August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1977-June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021

On June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021 the PA community lost a bright light when Dana Cafaro lost her hard fought battle with breast cancer.

Dana was a 2002 graduate of the Philadelphia University Physician Assistant program. She practiced as an emergency medicine PA at Lakenau hospital. Dana was also an accomplished educator and held the position of Associate Director of the Jefferson University physician assistant program. She has impacted countless lives as a healthcare provider and teacher. Dana was a loving daughter, sister, wife and mother to two beautiful boys Matt age 7 and Ryan age 5. Dana was a compassionate, intelligent, hardworking, loyal person who you wanted in your corner. All who knew her loved her. The impact she has made on her patients, students, friends and family's lives was awe-inspiring for her short time here on earth. During her fight with breast cancer, she continued to be all those things in which she loved and she never

let breast cancer define her. Dana was selfless and always faced everything head on. She was someone most people aspire to be. She is already greatly missed but she will continue to live on in the hearts of all who love her.

If you would like to make a donation to the education fund for her boys or help sponsor a planned event in celebration of Dana's life please visit [here](#) or visit page 7!

*In Loving Memory Of*



**Dana M. Cafaro**

August 3, 1977  
June 10, 2021

IN LOVING  
♥  
memory

Words from the students who were touched by  
Dana Cafaro

"No matter how we all may have felt during a rough spot in school, Professor Cafaro would beam a smile and say "You can do it! You're in the homestretch guys!" Now that we are at the finish line of didactic year, one of the first things I imagined is her smiling and saying "See, you made it!" Thank you for your positivity and all that you've taught us Professor Cafaro! You are truly missed!" -Aliyah Patterson

"Professor Cafaro exemplified what it is to be a compassionate, dedicated, and honorable provider, mentor and friend, making each of her patients, students, and colleagues feel appreciated, heard and loved. She would light up every room she walked into, exuding unwavering positivity and strength that touched everyone around her. She was a true inspiration to all of us and is exactly the Physician Assistant I hope to become one day as I hope to practice by her example of humility and integrity." -Emily Fusco

"Professor Cafaro was the most inspirational and influential role model that set the bar high for expectations and believed in every student no matter what challenges they encountered. She went above and beyond for anyone she met, and her legacy will be carried on in our future practice as Physician Assistants and throughout the remainder of our everyday lives." -Casey Joyce

"Professor Dana Cafaro had an extraordinary ability to give hope and bring out the best in everyone, even when she was going through difficult time herself. She always encouraged her students to go on a walk or do something that made us happy. It was an honor knowing her and having her as a professor, she will never be forgotten." - Anastasiya Mulyar

"She never gave up on us and was always ready when we came to her with concerns. She worked endlessly to give us the best education she could and I will always be grateful for everything she taught me." - Madelyn Pepe

"Professor Cafaro was a professor / mom to all her students because she was always telling us to take more breaks, get a good night sleep, use sunscreen when outside, and take care of ourselves. I am so grateful to have been one of her students and I will always treasure the positivity and wisdom she had to share." - Brandi Aldridge

"Professor Dana Cafaro was an exemplary icon of dedication, perseverance, and compassion. She cared not only for her patients but for her students as well, encouraging them to "Just keep pushing, you're almost at the finish line" while they navigated the challenges of completing graduate school from home during the pandemic. She showed unwavering strength and dedication to her students showing up nearly every day until her passing, never letting them see her struggle, and being a light of hope in the darkest of days." -Alyssa Immendorf

"Professor Cafaro became an automatic role model of mine upon the first semester of PA school. Not because of her diagnosis, but because of her continued dedication, encouragement, and love for the PA profession. Prof. Cafaro was one of our biggest cheerleaders, reminding us that PA school, "is a marathon not a sprint." May Prof. Cafaro be a memory and blessing to all of her students, coworkers, and patients lives she touched." -Brittany Weiner

"Professor Cafaro was an amazing professor, mentor, and PA-C. She truly cared for her students and loved teaching. She always had a smile on her face and positive words to share, even in some of her toughest times. I am forever thankful to have had the opportunity to learn from her." - Megan Warantz

"Professor Cafaro was not just an incredible professor, but an ally for her students, a dedicated PA-C, and someone you could lean on when time's got tough. Her strength and resilience is something that I will not only never forget but hope to take with me as I saw her as a true inspiration, a light when times got dark. I am so grateful for the time I had to get to know her and hope to make her proud as she got us to "the finish line" of didactic year, and to the beginning of our clinical year journey. Thanks Cafaro for everything." - Kayla Arnone



# WELCOME ABOARD!

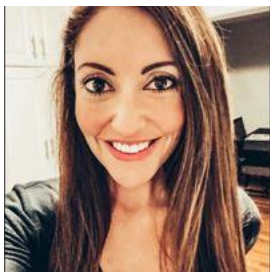
## House of Delegates Newest Members



Erica Amianda



Amanda DiPiazza



Victoria Latella



Timothy Lopez

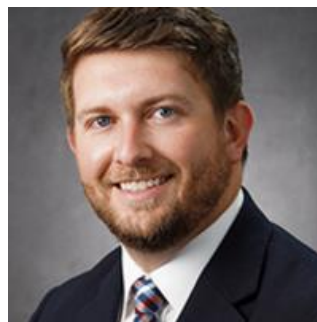


Diane Bruessow, Alternate

## Members at Large Newest Members



Emily Stefanicha



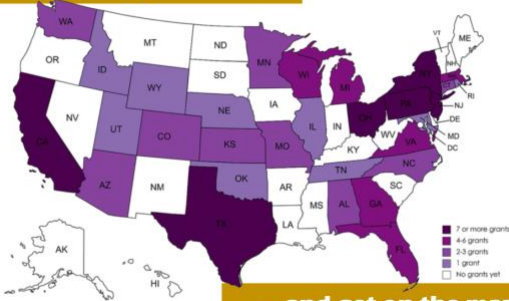
Sean Rowe



# NCCPA Grants!



## Be the Change for Health



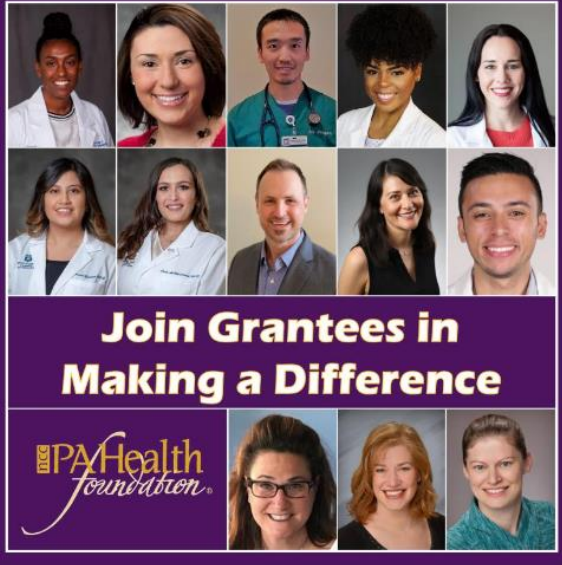
... and get on the map!

The [nccPA Health Foundation](https://www.nccpahealthfoundation.org)® is celebrating because we have funded our 50<sup>th</sup> Be The CHANGE grant and 112<sup>th</sup> project! We're looking forward to funding more PA-led projects that impact and improve health.

Grantees are working in 30 states across the US. Our five grant opportunities equip PAs and PA students who have a passion to provide high quality, accessible health care to expand access and reduce disparities.

Funding ranges from **\$1,000 to \$5,000**, including one competitive grant (due soon) and four year-round, apply-when-ready grants:

- [Be the CHANGE Grant](#) (Up to \$2,500)
- [Mental Health Outreach Grant](#) (Up to \$1,000)
- [Oral Health Outreach Grant](#) (Up to \$1,000)
- [Oral Health Integration Grant](#) (Up to \$3,000)



[www.nccpahealthfoundation.net](http://www.nccpahealthfoundation.net)





# Whats goin' on?

- NJSSPA Licensing and Credentialing Webinar (Non- NJSSPA members)
  - July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 7:30pm
  - Register [here!](#)
- NJSSPA Licensing and Credentialing Webinar (NJSSPA Members)
  - July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 7:30pm
  - Register [here!](#)
- Prevention of Infection and Sepsis During Recovery from Cardiac and Other High-Risk Surgery
  - July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 12:00pm
  - Register [here!](#)



NJ PA STUDENTS AND RECENT GRADS...  
JOIN US FOR NJSSPA'S

## NJ LICENSING AND CREDENTIALING WEBINAR

TUESDAY, JULY 13TH  
7:30 PM  
ZOOM WEBINAR

Q&A Session to Follow  
Open to both non-members and members  
No cost for NJSSPA members

HOSTED BY  
MICHAEL EISENBRUM, PA-C, CFP  
WITH  
THE FRASER & EISENBRUM GROUL

# NJSSPA MEET-UP @ TOPGOLF

NJ PAs, join us for our first in-person social event since 2019!

JULY 22, 2021  
6:30 PM  
EDISON, NJ

RSVP to Mike Serrano, PA-C  
[njsspamal2@gmail.com](mailto:njsspamal2@gmail.com)

## NJSSPA Celebrates Pride Month!

*Because Love is Love and  
who you are is beautiful!*

If you're interested in getting involved email us [here!](#)

Created by Alexa Hetzel, PA-C



## DANA'S DRAGONS

Event will be held at  
Lake Lenape Park East  
753 Park Rd, Mays Landing, NJ

The Dragons Are Coming! | Sunday, July 11th, 2021

Please come out and support Dana's Dragons!

We are sponsoring a Dragon Boat in Dana's Name (DANA'S DRAGONS) for this special event. Please come out to this event to help us celebrate Dana's life and the impact that she had on so many of us throughout her career as a Physician Assistant and educator. Dana leaves behind two sons Matt (age 7) and Ryan (age 5), a husband and loving family. We ask for your participation to help support them during this difficult time. Any additional proceeds after the boat sponsorship will go to support Dana's boys' education. Below is a link (paste into browser if link not working) to the boys 529 plans if you would like to donate.

<https://www.ugift529.com/home.html>

You will see "Enter Ugift Code" Enter the code and click "Give a Gift"

You will see Matt C or Ryan C listed as the student and John W as the account owner

Matthew - 513Y0K

Ryan - E99G7J

Tshirts- \$25- All proceeds will go to the boys 529 Education Plans.

The T-Shirt design is being finalized and will be on a blue T-Shirt. Please fill out the google form so we can ensure we order enough shirts for everyone to wear on the day of the event.

Boat sponsorship- we are also looking for donations to sponsor her boat. If you would like to help sponsor the boat please fill in your name and the amount you would like to donate on the google form.

<https://docs.google.com/.../1FAIpQLSciGNsB5LB.../viewform...>

Event Date: Sunday, July 11th

Location: Lake Lenape, Hamilton NJ (Further details to follow)

Time: Races begin at 9:00 am and will be held throughout the day. Please arrive early.

We will have a tent to host all those coming out to celebrate and remember Dana!

THE GILDA'S CLUB SOUTH JERSEY DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL 2021

The Festival will be a day of Dragon Boat races, a flower ceremony for loved ones touched by cancer, live entertainment, fantastic local food, vendors, and fun for the whole family!

The Dragon Boat Festival benefits Gilda's Club South Jersey's free programs for men, women, teens, and children impacted by cancer.