



# SPORTS NEWS

**Presidents' Athletic Conference**

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## **PAC Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) Raises Over \$2,500 for Special Olympics PA**

Pittsburgh, Pa. – The Presidents' Athletic Conference (PAC) Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) today raised over \$2,500 for the Pennsylvania Special Olympics, as 31 PAC SAAC members participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Pittsburgh Polar Plunge in the Allegheny River outside Heinz Field in Pittsburgh. The group included conference student-athletes, coaches and SAAC advisors. With sunny skies and the water temperature around 40 degrees, the PAC SAAC group took the dip into the frigid Allegheny River at around 1 p.m.

This is the first time the PAC SAAC has participated in the Pittsburgh Polar Plunge. The new conference-wide initiative followed the announcement at the 2011 NCAA Convention of a new national partnership between the NCAA Division III national SAAC and the Special Olympics. As a result of the national program, the PAC SAAC decided to support a local conference-wide initiative to support the new national partnership.

"I am very proud of our conference student-athletes for participating in such a great event and for how enthusiastic they were about getting involved," said PAC Associate Director **Shannon O'Brien**, who also serves as the PAC SAAC advisor. "It was great to have the student-athletes from different schools in the conference participate together in the plunge. Hopefully, next year we can get an even larger group of student-athletes from the PAC to take part in supporting this great event."

The mission of Special Olympics PA is to provide year-round sports training and competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy, and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills, and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes, and the community. For more information about Special Olympics Pennsylvania, please visit <http://www.specialolympicspa.org/>

Founded in 1955, the Presidents' Athletic Conference continues its mission of promoting intercollegiate athletics and the pursuit of academic excellence. Consisting of 10 select private institutions in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Kentucky, the PAC remains a unique organization in this day of high pressure intercollegiate athletics. With academics at the center of each member's philosophy, the PAC is built on the principle that an athletic program is a part of college life, but not an entity in itself. The PAC annually crowns champions in 19 sports (10 men, nine women).

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