

## **Inaugural Memorial Scholarship for Fallen Officer Awarded at Baldwin High School Senior Night**

Submitted by Baldwin-Whitehall Educational Foundation

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The Baldwin-Whitehall Educational Foundation [BWEF] awarded the first-ever Officer Sean Sluganski Memorial Scholarship to Emma Meyer, a senior at Baldwin High School pursuing a degree in forensic science at Arizona State University.

“To receive this scholarship is a true honor,” Emma said during senior recognition night at Baldwin High School on May 31. “I hope to be able to have the same impact in the law enforcement field that Sean did.”

The memorial scholarship was established earlier this year to honor Sean Sluganski, an officer with the McKeesport Police Department who was killed in the line of duty on February 6, 2023. Affectionately known as “Slug”, Sean grew up in North Baldwin and was known throughout the neighborhood as a skilled hockey player with a fantastic sense of humor. He graduated from Baldwin High School in 2009 before serving as an officer in Whitaker, Charleroi, and then eventually McKeesport.

The scholarship will be awarded annually to a graduating senior of Baldwin High School who intends to pursue a career in law enforcement and crime prevention. As the inaugural recipient of this scholarship, Emma embraced the opportunity to carry Sean’s important work forward.

“I’ve always had a passion for helping others,” she said. “I found a field in forensic science that will help give people closure. I’m excited to start down this path and I hope I can make Sean proud.”

Emma intends to apply the scholarship, valued at \$4,000, toward upcoming college expenses. Once she’s earned her degree at ASU, Emma intends to enroll in the police academy with a goal of advancing to the FBI Evidence Response Team. In preparation for entering law enforcement, she attended the FBI Teen Academy last year. She noted in her scholarship application essay that to be successful in law enforcement, you need integrity, courage, and drive—all traits that Sean was known for in his career.

Sean’s sisters Sarah Greiner and Shela Sluganski presented Emma with her certificate of scholarship at senior recognition night in May.

“She’s going to help so many people,” Sarah said of Emma. “We’re very proud of her and we’re excited to see what the future holds for her.”

The Sluganski family said that the community support for Sean and for the memorial scholarship has been emotionally uplifting in many ways.

“Having these positive outlets has been good for us,” Shela said. “For this scholarship to come from his alma mater, it means so much to our family.”

The scholarship will ensure that Sean’s legacy will be remembered forevermore by his alma mater of Baldwin High School and the Baldwin-Whitehall community where he grew up.

“To be able to provide this scholarship in Sean’s name is a moment of light for us,” Sarah said.

BWEF partnered with the Sluganski Family, the Baldwin Borough Police Department, Baldwin Township, the Whitehall Police Department, Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 91 of Allegheny County, the McKeesport Police Department, and the Baldwin-Whitehall School District in order to establish the scholarship.

A fundraising campaign is underway to grow the memorial scholarship and donations can be made multiple ways. You can learn more about the scholarship, how to donate, and watch news coverage of the scholarship presentation at <https://bwef.weebly.com/officer-sean-sluganski-memorial-scholarship.html>.



**Left to right:** Shela Sluganski, Emma Meyer, recipient of the 2023 Officer Sean Sluganski Memorial Scholarship, Sarah Greiner



Official badge of the Officer Sean Sluganski Memorial Scholarship