



Alliance High School Foundation

P.O. Box 3123
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www.ahsalumnifoundation.org

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Dear fellow AHS alumni and friends,

Nearly thirteen years removed, and I still vividly remember my time spent at AHS, both in and outside of the classroom. When I wasn't hurrying to early morning office hours with Mr. Morris for pre-calculus or Mr. Eibel for AP biology, you could find me practicing at the Rockhill soccer complex or in the Harry Fails gymnasium. On weeknights, I was a proud member of the Student Senate working the concession stand or attending Key Club meetings.

Ultimately, I received a quality education, made lasting friendships, and participated in a variety of extracurriculars through AHS, all of which laid a solid foundation for my future success. However, what I remember most is the unconditional support I experienced from my classmates, teachers, and the Alliance community after the untimely passing of my father in 2006. The compassion, kindness, and encouragement I received during that difficult and monumental time in my life would prove to be the driving force in many of the personal and professional decisions I would later make.

Upon graduating in '08, with the financial help of multiple AHS Foundation scholarships, I attended the University of Dayton, completing my B.S. At UD, I gained my first exposure to the physician assistant (PA) profession while volunteering at Dayton Children's Hospital. I was intrigued by a medical profession that allowed me to achieve high-level professional goals and to give back to those in need, while cultivating and maintaining personal relationships - all things instilled in me during my time at AHS. The PA profession checked all of the boxes.

Following graduation, I found myself returning to Alliance to receive yet another top-notch education, this time at the University of Mount Union. I completed my M.S. degree with a focus in PA studies and sat for boards, officially becoming a physician assistant. I was hired as an emergency department PA through the Cleveland Clinic and was full of energy, eager to continue learning and ready to help those seeking medical attention in any way that I could.

Fast-forward to 2021. I'm nearing my sixth-year anniversary in the medical field, and to say I've experienced growth both personally and professionally would be an understatement. I remain in the ER, and to be a frontline worker has never been more challenging, especially as an expectant mother. While healthcare has certainly changed over the years, the mission has remained the same. Collectively, all of us frontline workers are navigating uncharted waters as we continue into year two of the Covid-19 pandemic. We are doing our best to treat critically ill patients appropriately, while medical supplies are running low and bed consensus is at an all-time high, and are desperately trying to stay abreast of the newest guidelines.

The past two years have simultaneously been the most gratifying and most taxing of my career. I find myself continually tapping into that same compassion, kindness, and encouragement that I received thirteen years ago during those foundational years at AHS. I wouldn't be here today without the support of a strong community, and for that, I am grateful.

With my story in mind, will you join me in providing students with that same encouragement and financial support with a gift to the AHS foundation today? Your contributions will make a direct impact on current and future students alike, allowing them to pursue their own personal and professional dreams, just like me.

Allison R. (Gansel '08) Grande, PA-C

Patrick D. Heddleston '82
AHS Foundation President



Allison R. (Gansel '08)
Grande, PA-C

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