



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
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**PRESENTATION OF CENTRE COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT
OFFICER OF THE YEAR AWARD**

On July 13, 2021, the Centre County District Attorney's Office presented the 2020 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year award to Detective Stephen Bosak of the State College Police Department and Trooper Michael Brown of the Pennsylvania State Police. These officers were recognized for their investigations, one which led to the arrest of a serial rapist and a state trooper who has been involved in some of the county's most serious cases in recent years.

Detective Stephen Bosak began his career with the State College Police Department in 1985 and became a detective in 1991. In 2018 Detective Bosak, along with Detective Nicole Eckley, began the painstaking genealogy work necessary to solve the case of a serial rapist who had attacked students in downtown State College. Using genealogists and familial tracing, Detective Bosak worked through the defendant's family tree, ultimately obtaining an arrest and search warrant which proved that the defendant's DNA was identical to the profile developed from the four victims. He used these same procedures to identify and arrest a second defendant who could only have been identified by his DNA. It was his dogged determination and painstaking investigative work which led to the solving of both of these cold cases.

Trooper Michael Brown received multiple nominations, but the most compelling came from the relative of a victim in a pending child abuse case that involved a lengthy and complicated investigation. He was nominated because of his compassion, diligence and ability to communicate sensitive information to the family. These are traits that Trooper Brown brings to all his investigations. In 2017 Trooper Brown assisted the Spring Township Police Department in their investigation of Ardell Gross of Pleasant Gap, for the murder of his uncle Richard Smalley. It was Trooper Brown's rapport with the defendant which led to interviews that elicited crucial details about the case and allowed the Commonwealth to successfully prosecute the defendant. Trooper Brown also conducted detailed investigations of a drug delivery resulting in death following a heroin overdose and a sexual assault investigation of a minor by a 33 year old defendant in Centre Hall. Trooper Brown's dedication to his work and ability to efficiently and effectively complete tasks on an investigation have brought numerous serious cases to successful prosecution.