

Mayor Aidsand “Ace” Wright-Riggins

“I Don’t Mean to Brag, But...”

Collegeville is a great place to come home to! As a thirty-year resident of Collegeville, I experience this every day, firsthand. I have come to love Collegeville because of my wonderful neighbors, the synergy of living in a town and gown environment, the incredible community events such as parades and concerts in the park and a spirit of community which transcends differences in ethnicity, religion or politics.

I’m not a big numbers guy (my doctorate is in the social sciences, not math or statistics!) but some data I’ve been exploring recently confirms my anecdotal experience of our fair town. For instance, did you know?

- **Collegeville is one of the safest communities in all of Pennsylvania and America!** In 2020, Collegeville experienced 371.5 total crimes per 100k People. That is 19 crimes total. Pennsylvania experienced 1,709.8 per 100 k People. Nationally, there were 2,476.k total crimes per 100k People.
- **Collegeville’s Perkiomen Valley High School is [ranked # 47 out of 711 Public High Schools in PA](#) and [# 1300 out of close to 25,000 Public High Schools in the nation](#).** This means that our PV High School Vikings are students attending one of the top 6.6 percent of high schools in our Commonwealth and one of the top 5.2 % of all high schools in America. The graduation rate and college readiness rank of PV students is enviable across America.
- **Collegeville is ranked # 2 in [Best Places to Live](#) in Pennsylvania, just behind Swarthmore and ahead Ridley Park.** Collegeville enjoys an incredibly high employment rate, low poverty rate (the 2nd lowest in Pennsylvania), and high educational attainment level. Adults over 25 years old are more than twice as likely to hold Bachelor’s or Master’s level degrees than other Pennsylvanians or Americans.
- **Ursinus College, in the heart of Collegeville, is ranked the 84th top liberal arts college in the nation by U.S. News and World Report and tied for 11th in Pennsylvania.** Ursinus is among the best colleges in the nation, according to The Princeton Review’s 2020 edition of *The Best 386 Colleges*. Ursinus is also deemed a “Best Northeastern” college and one of the nation’s top “Green Colleges.”

My bragging on Collegeville does not mean that that I take credit for its success. It takes an entire community working together to achieve what this community has. Our residents, our businesses and educational institutions, our borough staff and public safety officers, our community organizations as well as our municipal leaders all have a hand in helping to make

Collegeville a great place to come home to. I am so grateful for the privilege I have of representing and advocating for Collegeville each and every day.