

## ALL IN THE FAMILY

**Family: Degrees this weekend for 3**

*Trio receive diplomas from Millersville University this weekend*

## HIGHER EDUCATION

### JUNIOR GONZÁLEZ

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A graduation is always a family affair, but for one Lititz family, it will be an embarrassment of riches. By this afternoon, Steven Szobocsan, his wife, Kristy, and their daughter, Whitney, will all have received degrees from Millersville University, all in the same weekend.

The family commencement was not expected.

Whitney, 24, first attended HACC before transferring to Millersville in 2016, and her parents, both 35, started their doctoral programs at Millersville a year apart.

To pile on, Kristy and Steven are busy in their full-time jobs as principals

for Warwick High School and Warwick Middle School, respectfully.

“About a year ago, we started to realize this could be a possibility,” Kristy Szobocsan said of the aligned commencement. By the fall semester, they knew it would become a reality.

Ultimately, for them, this shouldn’t be too surprising: Kristy and Steven Szobocsan graduated in the same undergraduate and graduate programs at the same schools in the same years.



The Szobocsan family — Steven, his wife, Kristy, and their daughter, Whitney — all will have received degrees from Millersville University over a two-day period after Whitney is presented with her bachelor’s degree today. Steven and Kristy Szobocsan received their doctorates Friday.

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At the Millersville graduate commencement ceremony Friday night, they added a dual program for a doctorate in educational leadership with a superintendent’s letter of eligibility from Millersville and Shippensburg universities to that list of accomplishments. Millersville offers its doctoral

had been a very independent learner all throughout her undergraduate career, Kristy Szobocsan said.

Less than 24 hours before she walked onstage to receive her degree, Whitney Szobocsan was unavailable for an interview because she was taking a final

find her forever family until she was 15 and was told that college may not be for her, we could not be prouder of the woman she has become,” Kristy Szobocsan said of their daughter.

The family will be throwing a party for Whitney Szobocsan after this

program in partnership with Shippensburg.

The family described the experience as a good one overall but stressful at times.

Kristy and Steven Szobocsan spent many nights pulling straws to see who got to stay up to complete coursework and who would put their younger two children to bed, they said.

“We learned to lean on each other even more than we had in the past,” Kristy Szobocsan said.

Whitney Szobocsan, who graduates from Millersville this morning with a bachelor’s degree in social work,

exam. Kristy Szobocsan said she is grateful the family went through the experience together.

“Steve and I learned that it takes a lot of hard work and time management to manage a family, full-time careers, and doctorate work,” she said. “We needed endless support from our family, friends and colleagues to make it possible.”

While they are proud of their accomplishments, they say it pales in comparison to the pride they hold for Whitney Szobocsan, whom they adopted.

“As a child who did not

morning’s commencement at Millersville University.

Kristy and Steve Szobocsan will continue their work at Warwick School District, while Whitney Szobocsan will start her career at Lancaster County Children and Youth Social Service Agency in Lancaster city. She plans to pursue her master’s degree in social work in the future.

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— Kristy Szobocsan