

Elizabethtown College 125th Anniversary  
National Historic Preservation Trust This Place Matters Campaign & Campus Historic Building Survey  
Based on the National Parks Service Historic American Building Survey  
2024 Summer Creative Arts and Research Program SCARP  
Ava Barton Class of 2027  
Jean-Paul Benowitz, Director of Prestigious Scholarships and Fellowships and Public Heritage Studies



## Sanford Dale High Class of 1963

Following his graduation from the Elizabethtown College School of Business in 1963, Sanford Dale High joined his family business with his father and brother in 1963 as the third and youngest son of Sanford H. High. His father, Sanford High founded the High Welding Company in 1931. High companies have spanned three generations. In the decades following, Sanford Dale High has expanded his family's business into twelve businesses. "Today, High companies have nearly 2,000 coworkers operating 38 facilities in six states."<sup>1</sup> High companies total more than half a billion dollars in revenue.

"We seek to be servant leaders, recognizing that for all we are given, whether in assets, leadership, influence, or opportunities of other sorts we are accountable to and responsible for others. Service to others is what it means to be a leader." - S. Dale High.<sup>2</sup> The High Companies are comprised of High Industries and High Real Estate Group. They have many affiliates, namely High Steel Structures, but they also provide construction, concrete, hotels, real estate development and

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<sup>1</sup> "The Legacy of S. Dale High," SDH Leadership Center, accessed July 2, 2024. <https://www.sdhleadershipcenter.com/s.-dale-highs-legacy/>.

<sup>2</sup> "The Legacy of S. Dale High," High Foundation, accessed July 2, 2024. <https://www.highfoundation.org/s-dale-high/>.

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management, safety, architectural design and other projects and services.<sup>3</sup> Major projects to note can be the revitalization work in Old Town Lancaster, the Lancaster County Convention Center, as well as at the Lancaster Marriot at Penn Square.<sup>4</sup>



On October 26, 1987, The High Foundation of Lancaster broke the record for the largest single gift ever given to the College at that time with a \$1.5 million dollar donation to be used towards the building of a new library.<sup>5</sup> In 1989, S. Dale High joined then College President Spiegler in the groundbreaking ceremony for a new library. Rider Hall which was built in 1905 and was demolished in 1990 to make room for new construction. The High Library opened in August 1990, named in honor of S. Dale High.<sup>6</sup> The library was built by the High Construction Company.

Business was founded at Elizabethtown College by S. Dale High. The High Center for Family Business provides education, support, and peer dialogue for family businesses in the Pennsylvania region and is one of the largest and oldest centers in the country. Today, the center serves over 180 member companies.<sup>7</sup> Family businesses account for 54% of U.S. gross domestic product and generate 59% of the country's employment.<sup>8</sup> The High Center provides crucial services and support to these economic powerhouses.



<sup>3</sup> "Industrialist S Dale High," Lancaster Online, March 6, 2016, [https://lanasteronline.com/business/local\\_business/industrialist-s-dale-high-its-been-a-wonderful-53-year-career/article\\_51c96f80-dfdd-11e5-b404-bfa0a9f5d66b.html](https://lanasteronline.com/business/local_business/industrialist-s-dale-high-its-been-a-wonderful-53-year-career/article_51c96f80-dfdd-11e5-b404-bfa0a9f5d66b.html).

<sup>4</sup> SDH Leadership Center, n.d.

<sup>5</sup> Chet Williamson, *Uniting Work and Spirit: A Centennial History of Elizabethtown College* (Elizabethtown, PA, Elizabethtown College Press, 2001), 295.

<sup>6</sup> Williamson, 293.

<sup>7</sup> "About," The High Center, accessed August 14, 2024. <https://thehighcenter.com/about/>.

<sup>8</sup> Torsten Pieper et al., "Update 2021: Family Businesses' Contribution to the U.S. Economy," 2021, [https://familyenterpriseusa.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Family-Businesses-Contribution-to-the-US-Economy\\_v.01272021-FINAL\\_4.pdf](https://familyenterpriseusa.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Family-Businesses-Contribution-to-the-US-Economy_v.01272021-FINAL_4.pdf). P. 13-14.

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On February 2, 2000, as a former graduate and trustee, S. Dale High received the Centennial Medal for helping to make the history of Elizabethtown College. The Other recipients of the award include: Edgar T. Bitting '50, Shirley A. Deichert '66, Charles S. Farver-Apgar, Vera Hackman '25, Ira R. Herr, Yvonne E. "Yonnie" Kauffman, Otis D. Kitchen, Donald B. Kraybill, Carlos R. Leffler, Benjamin G. Musser '42, Wayne A. Nicarry, and John P. Ranck '58.<sup>9</sup>

In 2007, the Masters Center for Mathematics, Science and Engineering was built by the High Construction Company.<sup>10</sup>

The New Tappan Zee Bridge is a recent example of High companies helping to rebuild America's infrastructure. "The Mario M. Cuomo Bridge, at 3.1 miles long, is a twin-span, cable-stayed replacement for the old Tappan Zee Bridge, crossing the Hudson River about 25 miles north of New York City." High Steel Structures LLC created 50,000 tons of structural steel for the project. "This is the largest contract that any High company ever executed. It puts us in a special place: We can do things that not everybody can," says Jeff Sterner, President and COO of High Industries Inc. This Tappan Zee project was featured in the History Channel's "Project Impossible" series.<sup>11</sup>

S. Dale High believes that business has an important role in community service. His civic engagement is best represented through the High Foundation. The High Foundation has used its resources and partners to address issues within the community. In 2023, the High Foundation gave over 5 million dollars back to the community by supporting education, health and human services, community and economic development, arts and culture, historic preservation, social enterprise, and environmental issues.<sup>12</sup> The S. Dale High Leadership Center was created as a space for people and businesses to have constructive conversations and collaborate on ways to help the Lancaster community. This venue features an atrium, auditorium, conference rooms, and a courtyard for groups to gather.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> Williamson, 334.

<sup>10</sup> "Architectural & Biographical Study of Elizabethtown College: Masters Center for Mathematics, Science, and Engineering." ArcGIS StoryMaps, Elizabethtown College, Accessed August 15, 2024.  
<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/fc6a71870572498b8c5b8273cd79e0a6>.

<sup>11</sup> "New Tappan Zee Bridge: The Largest Transportation Design-Build Project in U.S.," High, accessed July 2, 2024.  
<https://www.high.net/our-company/what-we-do/tappan-zee-bridge/>.

<sup>12</sup> "High Impact Portfolio," High Foundation, accessed August 15, 2024,  
[https://www.highfoundation.org/impact/#\\_2951729591](https://www.highfoundation.org/impact/#_2951729591).

<sup>13</sup> "The Facility," SD High Leadership Center, accessed August 15, 2024,  
<https://www.sdhleadershipcenter.com/about/the-facility/>.

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