



FINANCIAL AID NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2016



A monthly guide listing available scholarships/grants for Seniors planning to attend post-secondary institutions, (trade/technical/business schools, two and four-year colleges and apprenticeship programs).

Also posted on school website

Information regarding the Scholarships listed may be obtained in the Career Resource Center located in the Counseling Office.

LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS SPECIFICALLY FOR GRADUATING SENIORS OF CONRAD WEISER HIGH SCHOOL

ELLA M. ECKERT SCHOLARSHIP

This memorial scholarship is being awarded to a senior, each year for four years, provided they major in the field of education. Mrs. Eckert was an elementary teacher at Conrad Weiser for 14 years, and also taught at Bethany for 17 years. She established this award to enable a worthy student to attend college. The deadline to apply is March 23, 2016.

LADIES AUXILIARY VFW POST 6558

One \$500 scholarship is being offered to children/stepchildren of a military veteran who has served or is currently serving in the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, or Coast Guard (Active Duty, Guard, Reserve). GPA and community involvement are taken into consideration. Deadline to apply is May 15th.

SNYDER FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship has been established in memory of Mary Jane Snyder, a third grade teacher for 27 years in the Conrad Weiser School District. One scholarship will be awarded to a senior who plans to major in education, with a preference for elementary education. Preference will also be given to applicants who plan to attend Alvernia University or Penn State University. Visit www.bccf.org between January 15th & March 15th to apply.

GENERAL SCHOLARSHIPS

AMERICAN LEGION

The American Legion offers a number of Scholarships and other resources to assist young people in their pursuit of higher education. There are opportunities for everyone, including kin of wartime veterans and participants in Legion programs. Visit www.legion.org for scholarship requirements and online applications.

BENEFICIAL SOCIETY VICTOR EMMANUEL II

If you are of Italian descent and are planning to attend a 4-year accredited institution, you may be eligible for this \$12,000 scholarship, payable at the rate of \$3,000 per year. Applications must be received by the March 15th deadline.

BERKS COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

This foundation administers more than 100 scholarship funds for Berks county students. Most of the scholarships have very specific eligibility criteria. A complete list of scholarships administered by BCCF is available at www.bccf.org. With some exceptions, most countywide applications that require an on-line application will be accepted beginning January 15th and ending March 15th. View their website for a complete list of scholarships they administer and the application deadlines.

BUICK ACHIEVERS

Multiple scholarship awards, ranging in value from \$2000 non-renewable to \$25,000 renewable for four years, are available to high school seniors who are dedicated both in and out of the classroom. If you have the passion to succeed and plan to enroll full time at a four-year college or university, majoring in a field of study that focuses on engineering, technology, design or business, with an interest in the automotive industry, this opportunity is for you. All applications must be submitted online at www.buickachievers.com with a deadline of February 29th.

CONGRESS-BUNDESTAG VOCATIONAL YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAM

This unique program allows graduating high school seniors to spend a year in Germany living with a host family, participating in a school or training program, and getting hands-on work experience through an internship with a German company. A special scholarship opportunity, administered by Nacel Open Door, is being offered to 20-25 seniors who have undertaken vocational training to spend their 13th year abroad pursuing their vocational interests. Applicants do not have to be familiar with the German language. An intensive two-month training program will help with the language and the culture. Health, liability and accident insurance are paid for in addition to room, board and airfare. Visit www.nacelopendoor.org for additional information. Interested students should consult their counselor for nomination. Completed applications must be postmarked by January 31st

PA ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY BANKERS

The PACB Foundation is pleased to announce that the PACB Scholarship Fund is awarding \$1,000 renewable scholarships to dependent high school seniors of full-time employees or directors of member financial institutions. Full-time, undergraduate enrollment at only colleges, universities and community colleges will be considered. Essay required. Applications outlining full details can be obtained from the Career Resource Center with a deadline of February 5, 2016.

PA SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

To encourage Pennsylvania students to stay in-state to pursue higher education, the PA Society and the Maguire Foundation are offering renewable scholarships worth up to \$8,000 per year. A minimum 3.0 GPA is required. The deadline for submission is February 2nd, with a Counseling Office deadline of January 25th for a transcript request.

PENNSYLVANIA HEARTLAND HERB SOCIETY

The Pennsylvania Heartland Unit of The Herb Society of America is offering two scholarships to 3rd or 4th year students active within the field of horticulture or a related study. An essay is required. Deadline to apply is March 29, 2016.

**Keep checking the following websites for free scholarship information:
www.fastweb.com, www.scholarships.com, www.ScholarshipExperts.com, and
www.studentscholarships.org**

SCHOOL SPECIFIC SCHOLARSHIPS

***** Login to the College/University sites that you apply to in order to get the most current information on Scholarships/Grants and Financial Aid offered through that specific institution! *****

REMEMBER... YOU MUST APPLY TO WIN!

FINANCIAL AID TIPS OF THE MONTH

CONRAD WEISER STUDENT LOAN

Conrad Weiser seniors who plan to continue education after graduation are eligible to apply for this student loan opportunity. Loan amounts vary each year ranging from \$1500 to \$2500. This loan is not based on financial need and is renewable for all four years of your undergraduate education. No interest is calculated while you are enrolled as a full-time and for an additional 1-year period thereafter. The CW Student Loan is funded by private donations. No tax money is used for this loan opportunity. Applications are available from the Career Resource Center and must be submitted to Mrs. Beth Shartle in Central Administration by June 15, 2016. **A letter detailing loan amounts and disbursement will be mailed to the applicants after July 1, 2016.**

SAT Test Date: March 5, 2016

ACT Test Date: April 9, 2016

Registration Deadline: February 5, 2016

Registration Deadline: March 4, 2016

Fall/Spring SAT & ACT Review Courses at Penn State Berks.

On-line registration: www.berks.psu.edu/ce/SAT-prep-courses.htm or call 610-396-6225

**Financial Aid Night
High School Auditorium
Monday, January 11th @ 7:00**

Now is the time to process your FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) form.

Details are available at www.fafsa.gov

Additional websites for financial aid information:

\$ www.pheaa.org (Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency)

\$ www.educationplanner.org

\$ www.StudentAid.gov is a new website that provides straightforward and easy-to-understand information about planning and paying for college. The site combines content and interactive tools from several ED websites. As a mobile-optimized website, StudentAid.gov is fully accessible on tablets and smartphones.

Federal Student Aid: Find the Information You Need Online

	Topic	Resource
FAFSA	Fill out the FAFSA	fafsa.gov
	Basic FAFSA info: what is it; how do you fill it out	StudentAid.gov/fafsa StudentAid.gov/complete
	Dependency status for FAFSA purposes	StudentAid.gov/dependency
	Determining which parent's info to report	StudentAid.gov/fafsa-parent
	How aid is calculated (inc. link to EFC info)	StudentAid.gov/how-calculated
Types of Aid/ Getting Aid	Types of financial aid	StudentAid.gov/types
	Who can get federal student aid	StudentAid.gov/eligibility
	Pell Lifetime Eligibility Used	StudentAid.gov/pell-limit
	Finding and applying for scholarships	StudentAid.gov/scholarships
	Loan interest rates and fees	StudentAid.gov/interest
	Aid for military families	StudentAid.gov/military
	Avoiding financial aid scams	StudentAid.gov/scams
Student Account Access	My Federal Student Aid (student can log in to see grant and loan records and certain eligibility info)	StudentAid.gov/login
	The FSA ID (what is it; how to apply; FAQ; link to page where student and parent can create FSA IDs)	StudentAid.gov/fsaid
Repaying Loans	Loan repayment	StudentAid.gov/repay
	Repayment Estimator (compares repayment plans)	StudentAid.gov/repayment-estimator
	Income-driven repayment plans (e.g., Pay As You Earn, Income-Based, and REPAYE plans)	StudentAid.gov/idr
	Public Service Loan Forgiveness	StudentAid.gov/publicservice
	Loan forgiveness in general	StudentAid.gov/forgiveness
	Loan forgiveness for teachers	StudentAid.gov/teach-forgive
College Prep	College Preparation Checklist: academic and financial prep for K-12 and adult students	StudentAid.gov/checklist
	Why go to college (education and pay/unemployment rates)	StudentAid.gov/whycollege
Special Audiences	Info for parents (tax benefits, support your child, college costs)	StudentAid.gov/parent
	Graduate school funding	StudentAid.gov/grad
	Financial aid for adult students	StudentAid.gov/resources#adult-students
	Going to college in another country	StudentAid.gov/international
Social Media	@FAFSA Twitter feed	www.Twitter.com/FAFSA
	Federal Student Aid YouTube channel	www.YouTube.com/FederalStudentAid
	Federal Student Aid Facebook page	www.Facebook.com/FederalStudentAid

Federal Student Aid Resources for Students and Parents: A Sampling

Resource	Summary and URL Note: Most of these items are also available in Spanish, and several of the documents are available in Braille.	Audience(s)							
		Elementary School Student and Parent	Middle School Student and Parent	High School Student (9th-11th)	High School Senior	High School Parent	College Student	Borrower – Student or Parent	Adult Student
College Prep Checklist	How to get ready academically and financially (StudentAid.gov/checklist)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
Federal Student Aid at a Glance	Basic overview of aid and application process (StudentAid.gov/glance)			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Do You Need Money for College: The Guide to Federal Student Aid	Overview of the financial aid process with links to resources on our website (StudentAid.gov/needmoney)			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Federal Student Loans (series)	Federal loan booklets for students and parents (StudentAid.gov/resources#loans)				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
PDF FAFSA	Free application for federal student aid (fafsa.gov)				✓	✓	✓		✓
Video: Types of Federal Student Aid	2-minute video introducing concept of grants, loans, work-study (StudentAid.gov/resources#types-aid-video)			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Video: How to Fill Out the FAFSA	2:45-minute video providing overview of FAFSA process (StudentAid.gov/resources#how-fill-out-fafsa-video)				✓	✓	✓		✓
Video: Responsible Borrowing	2-minute video reminding borrowers to borrow only what they need (StudentAid.gov/resources#responsible-borrowing-video)				✓		✓	✓	✓
Infographic: The FAFSA Process	Graphic showing the path a student takes to apply for aid (StudentAid.gov/resources#fafsa-process-graphic)				✓	✓	✓		✓
Infographic: Determining Dependency Status	Graphic showing dependency status questions (StudentAid.gov/resources#dependency-status-graphic)				✓	✓	✓		✓

View the full selection of publications you can order from Federal Student Aid at www.FSAPubs.gov. Students and parents may order at www.edpubs.gov. More resources are at StudentAid.gov/resources.