



PENNSYLVANIA AFL-CIO

RICHARD W. BLOOMINGDALE
President

FRANK SNYDER
Secretary-Treasurer

January 19, 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

We thank all the Affiliates who contributed to the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO Annual Scholarship Essay Contest in the past. This contest was created to promote awareness in students of the Labor Movement's vital contributions to this nation's economic, social, and political fabric. We are asking for your financial support in this endeavor. If you donate \$250.00 or more, your organization will be recognized as a sponsor on next year's Scholarship Brochure. Enclosed is a list of our Scholarship winners for 2020.

Due to the success of the Scholarship Program over the past decade, the Education Committee will continue the program in two categories:

❖ **Category I – Graduating High School Seniors:**

One of the primary purposes of unions throughout history has been to defend workers' rights, health, and safety. How has the presence of unions manifested throughout the pandemic? Health benefits, hazard pay, sick pay/leave, PPE, etc.

❖ **Category II – All Post-Secondary Students:**

The Labor Movement has been responsible and contributed to creating many government agencies and worker-friendly legislation, such as OSHA, FMLA, and overtime provisions. How were these and other protections tested and vital to the well-being of the country throughout the pandemic?

Please make your check payable to the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO and mail it to:

PA AFL-CIO
Attention: Frank Snyder, Secretary-Treasurer
600 N. 2nd Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

We want to thank you in advance for your support of this program.

In Solidarity,

Richard W. Bloomingdale, President
Frank Snyder, Secretary-Treasurer

Enclosure

2020 Contest Winners

CATEGORY I

GRADUATING SENIORS

1st Place

MATTHEW NIEDEBALA

Steamfitters Local UA 449

2nd Place

SARAH HECK

Insulators Local #2

3rd Place

KIMBERLY WILSONCROFT

UFCW 1776KS

"Almost 150 years after the first major American union was formed, unions are still an effective method of improving the lives of our workers. Union workers still get better benefits, higher wages, and work under better conditions than non-union workers."

- MATTHEW NIEDEBALA

CATEGORY II

POST-SECONDARY STUDENTS

1st Place

FAITH GONGAWARE

PSEA

2nd Place

JOSEPHINE PARSONS

SEIU 668

3rd Place

JACQUELINE SCOBONIA

AFSCME 462

"This dedication to continual improvement is the key to success. The exponential growth of information and the ever-changing world requires agility and adaptation in the workforce, regardless of someone's chosen path. Basic skills and knowledge aside, whoever is ready to put forth the effort is the one who is ready for success."

- FAITH GONGAWARE

2020 Scholarship Sponsors

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AFSCME Local 3101 IBEW Local 81

JNESO DC 1, IUOE IBEW Local 712

Allegheny Labor Council NE PA Trades Council

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PENNSYLVANIA AFL-CIO

2021 SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY CONTEST



NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

HOME PHONE NUMBER _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

UNION AFFILIATION & LOCAL _____

CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL (if known) _____

PLEASE STATE THE NAME & ADDRESS OF THE SCHOOL AND/OR PROGRAM YOU CURRENTLY ATTEND _____

I agree to provide proof of school acceptance or enrollment, should I become a scholarship recipient.

SIGNATURE OF CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL OR LOCAL UNION

2021 ESSAY QUESTIONS

CATEGORY I

GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

COVID-19 and Unions: A Historical Perspective

One of the primary purposes of unions throughout history has been to defend workers' rights, health, and safety. How has the presence of unions manifested throughout the pandemic? Health benefits, hazard pay, sick pay/leave, PPE, etc.

CATEGORY II

ALL POST-SECONDARY STUDENTS

Government and Unions: Effects from COVID-19

The Labor Movement has been responsible and contributed to creating many government agencies and worker-friendly legislation, such as OSHA, FMLA, and overtime provisions. How were these and other protections tested and vital to the well-being of the country throughout the pandemic?

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

FIRST PLACE	\$2,000
SECOND PLACE	\$1,000
THIRD PLACE	\$500

WHAT IS THE SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY CONTEST?

The Pennsylvania AFL-CIO Scholarship Essay Contest is a chance for students to learn more about the importance of Organized Labor in America. For over a decade, we have awarded thousands of dollars to students furthering their education.

Scholarships are available exclusively to Pennsylvania AFL-CIO affiliated union members and their families.

Scholarships are offered to students in two categories: graduating high school seniors (Class of 2021), and all post-secondary students.

HOW TO APPLY

- Essays must be a minimum of 1,500 words on the topic in your respective category. Essays less than 1,500 words will be disqualified.
- Essays must be typed and neatly prepared.
- Titles must be kept as they are on the brochure.
- Entries must be formatted as a PDF file and emailed to president@paafcio.org.
- Your application form must be included in essay PDF file, or attached to your email as a separate PDF.
- Entries must be emailed by February 28, 2021.
- A PDF version of this brochure is available online at paafcio.org.