

News Advisory

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sen. Wayne D. Fontana and Rep. Steven C. Mentzer Re-elected Chair & Vice Chair of PHEAA Board of Directors

Harrisburg, PA (February 15, 2024) – The Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) announced today that Senator Wayne D. Fontana has been re-elected as Chairman of the PHEAA Board of Directors. Representative Steven C. Mentzer has been re-elected as Vice Chairman of the Board.

Senator Fontana has represented the 42nd Senatorial District in Allegheny County since 2005. He currently serves as the Senate Democratic Caucus Chairman. He is also a member of the Community, Economic & Recreational Development, Finance, Local Government, Rules & Executive Nominations, Urban Affairs & Housing, and Democratic Policy Committees.

"I'm proud to announce that this is my 15th year of service on the PHEAA Board of Directors, and it has been my honor to aid in helping Pennsylvania's students afford their dream of higher education," said Senator Fontana. "Our mission and vision are so important to the future of this Commonwealth; we need educated Pennsylvanians guiding the state into the future and continuing to build upon what so many have worked so hard to establish. To achieve that, we need education to be affordable and achievable, regardless of your economic background."

First created in 1963 by an act of legislation from the Pennsylvania General Assembly, PHEAA serves Pennsylvanians with a mission of creating affordable access to higher education. With more than 60 years of experience, the Agency serves as one of the nation's leading student aid organizations.

"This is my second year serving on the PHEAA Board of Directors," said Representative Mentzer. "The past year has given me a first-hand view of the important and impactful work that PHEAA does for Pennsylvania's students and their families, and I look forward to continuing that work throughout the coming year."

Representative Steven C. Mentzer has represented the 97th Legislative District in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives since November 2012. He currently serves as the Republican Chair of the Aging and Older Adult Services Committee.

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PHEAA's public service mission is funded by its business earnings which pay the operating costs of the Agency and the complete administration of the PA State Grant Program and other student aid programs, which are expanded upon each year to meet Pennsylvania's specific needs. Every dollar appropriated by the General Assembly to student aid programs goes directly to the Pennsylvania students and families who need it most and saves taxpayers millions of dollars since they don't fund program administration costs. During the last decade, PHEAA has provided more than \$1 billion from its business earnings to support student aid programs for Pennsylvania students and families.

PHEAA also announced that the following members have been elected to serve on the Board's Executive Committee:

Chairman:	Representative Sheryl Delozier (Cumberland)
Vice Chairman:	Senator Vincent J. Hughes (Philadelphia)
Committee Members:	Senator Ryan Aument (Lancaster)
	Dr. Jonathan D. Green (Susquehanna University)
	Rep. Jennifer O'Mara (Delaware)
	Daniel Gilman (Duquesne University)

For more information, please visit PHEAA.org.

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About PHEAA

The Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) was created by the Pennsylvania General Assembly in 1963 to provide affordable access to higher education for PA students and families. Through the years, PHEAA has evolved into one of the nation's leading providers of student financial aid services, including the Commonwealth's first state-based student loan program – PA Forward. PHEAA also serves millions of students through its loan guaranty, loan servicing, financial aid processing, and other programs.

PHEAA conducts student loan servicing operations nationally as American Education Services (AES).

PHEAA's press releases are accessible at <https://www.pheaa.org/about/press-releases/>