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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pennsylvania Targeted Industry Program Adds New Programs of Study

Harrisburg, PA (November 7, 2024) – The Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) has expanded the list of eligible programs of study for the Pennsylvania Targeted Industry Program (PA-TIP).

The need-based program was created in 2012 and provides awards to students enrolled in the career areas of Energy, Health, Advanced Materials and Diversified Manufacturing, Agriculture, and Food Production.

The PHEAA Board of Directors recently voted to expand the list of eligible programs of study beginning with the 2024-25 award year thanks to a \$3 million increase in the 2024-25 PA-TIP appropriation, to \$11.652 million.

“PA-TIP was created to fill a great need in Pennsylvania,” said Senator Wayne D. Fontana, PHEAA Board Chairman. “But needs are always changing. I’m pleased that we’re able to take this increased appropriation and expand the number of programs of study to meet the Commonwealth’s current needs. In many ways, the success of these students is the success of Pennsylvania.”

PHEAA worked in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry (L&I) to develop a list of 19 programs for expansion. PHEAA specifically looked at in-demand occupations that require a less-than-2-year degree to gain entry level into those occupations and focused on programs of study tied to the four main industries. The results of this review expanded the list of 36 eligible programs of study by adding 19 new programs for a total of 55.

“At PHEAA, we’re pleased to be such an integral part of a critical program that helps to ensure Pennsylvania’s workforce has the skills needed to match the needs of the job market,” said James Steeley, PHEAA President & CEO. “Financial aid programs for short-term educational programs are rare, but they are critical to Pennsylvania. We are in need of educated professionals in the energy, health, advanced materials and diversified manufacturing, and agriculture and food production fields. Now, thanks to increased funding, we can expand the number of eligible programs of study and help even more students.”

PA-TIP provides need-based awards up to the equivalent of the maximum award (currently \$6,000), or the student's actual unmet need, whichever is less. Awards can be used to cover educational costs and specific living expenses.

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Eligible courses of study must be more than 10 weeks in length, less than 2 academic years in length, and be Title IV eligible. Additionally, courses of study must not be PA State Grant eligible. Detailed information can be found at [PHEAA.org/PA-TIP](https://pheaa.org/PA-TIP).

The newly eligible programs include:

- Electrical/Electronics Equipment Installation & Repair
- Vehicle Maintenance & Repair Technologies
- Machine Tool Technology/Machinist
- Machine Shop Technology/Assistant
- Precision Metal Working
- Dental Services & Allied Professions
- Medical Office Assistant/Specialist
- Medical Reception/Receptionist
- Medical Insurance Specialist/Medical Biller
- Medical Administrative/Executive Assistant & Medical Secretary
- Health & Medical Administrative Services
- Clinical/Medical Laboratory Assistant
- Emergency Care Attendant (EMT Ambulance)
- Allied Health & Medical Assisting Services
- Ophthalmic/Optometric Support Services & Allied Professions
- Medication Aide
- Health Aides/Attendants/Orderlies
- Dietitian Assistant
- Dietetics & Clinical Nutrition Services

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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/>.