

On behalf of the Community Foundation, I'd like to thank all of you for your dedication and hard work especially over the last few years. I am truly looking forward to the 2023 scholarship season and the opportunity to work with all of you again. At this point in time, I am scheduling in school visits to talk to your seniors, if you'd like to schedule a visit just let me know.

Great news from PATH, I was allotted \$109,000.00 in matching funds for 2022/23, with an increase in the maximum award of \$3,500.00 per student. The PATH Matching Grant Program is available to students that graduate from a PA High School and attend a PA College, University or Trade School. Let's have another great year!



FOLLOWING UP WITH REFERENCE PROVIDERS

Even though our automated system takes most of the responsibility off the applicants, they still need to follow up with their reference providers to confirm that their letters were in deed submitted. Without a letter of reference, applicants risk not making it into certain scholarship opportunities for which they were otherwise qualified for.

SUBMISSION IS NOT THE FINAL STEP

It may seem counterintuitive, but there maybe further steps that need completed once the application has been submitted. Upon submission, a list of qualified scholarships opportunities will populate for the applicant. These opportunities may require additional information such as another essay or an additional letter of reference, If the applicant does not submit their initial application until close to March 1st, they may not have time to compete their additional requirements. Please help me encourage your students to give them selves enough time and take advantage of the most opportunities available by submitting early.

Email is Essential

Students aren't always the best at checking their email but it is a vitally important part of communication during every stage of our scholarship program. It is also important that students submit their application using a personal email, rather than their school issued one so that future communications is not interrupted after graduation. Encouraging your students to follow these steps will ensure that they do not miss out on money for school.



IMPORTANT DATES

January 1 st	Applications Open
March 1 st	Applications Close
March 15 th	Reviews Begin
April 15 th	Reviews Closed

Going forward March 1st will be a Hard Deadline.

A LITTLE PREP GOES A LONG WAY

The first of the year can be a very hectic time for our seniors as they plan for the next stage for their lives. Doing a little preparation before January 1st can help the applicant tremendously by decreasing the workload later and lessoning the stress. We've found the best way to do this is to have students create a Student Resume.

The following information will be needed for all scholarship application, including ours:

- Community Service – Dates they participated, what they did, name and contact for their supervisor.
- Employment – Dates they were employed, what their duties were, name and contact for their supervisor.
- Transcripts – Name and email address of the person that submits transcripts
- Reference Providers – **(Ask permission to use them as a reference first)**, names and emails of reference provider.
- Extra-curricular Activities – Only for High School, list all school activities and length of participation.
- Leadership Roles – Position held and the duration.
- Out of School Organizations - List organizations where they were active members, along with dates and how they are affiliated, example: church, unions, volunteer fire departments...
- Essay Prompts, all three must be answered - 1) Please explain why you chose your field of study. 2) How do you see yourself over the next four to five years, for example: will you live on campus, participate in collegiate sports/music, work part time, or perhaps pursue an internship. 3) Scholarships through the Community Foundation are made possible by our generous donors, all of whom desire to help local students defray the cost of furthering their education. If you are fortunate to win a Community Foundation Scholarship, how would you, in a charitable and unselfish manner, help others in your community.
- Student Aid Report – We will need a copy of the first page only, it's there that the EFC is listed.

