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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PHEAA Encourages Students and Families to Save for College During National College Savings Month

Harrisburg, PA (September 22, 2026)—In honor of National College Savings Month, the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) joins the Pennsylvania Treasury Department (Treasury) in encouraging families to take advantage of upcoming, free webinars on the financial aid process and how to start saving early with the PA 529 College and Career Savings Program and Keystone Scholars.

“Financial Aid 101,” is a free webinar hosted by PHEAA’s experienced Higher Education Access Partner Wendy Dunlap, who will present information on the financial aid application process, the types of aid available to students, and strategies to start thinking about affordability before applying for admission. The webinar will be held on Friday, October 2 at noon. [Registration is required.](#)

“Webinars provide a free, convenient medium for educating yourself on ways in which to save on the cost of higher education,” said Senator Wayne Fontana, Chairman of the PHEAA Board of Directors. “Investing a little time now could lead to substantial savings in the future. We encourage all college-bound students and their families to join PHEAA and Treasury for these upcoming events.”

“Overview of the PA 529 College and Career Savings Program,” hosted by Treasury, will be held on Tuesday, September 29 at 11:00 AM. This free webinar will show you how families can save and help pay for educational expenses at many career and technical schools, many apprenticeship and credential programs, and 2-year and 4-year colleges and universities. [Registration is required.](#)

“Treasury is excited to work with PHEAA to help promote these webinars to empower more families to save for future education expenses,” said State Treasurer Stacy Garrity. “PA 529 plans, including the PA 529 Investment Plan which is rated among the best in the nation, have great tax benefits, don’t impact state financial aid, and can help pay for any career path a child takes.”

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"It's critical for students and families to take advantage of every opportunity to understand the resources and options that are available to aid them in affording their education," said James Steeley, PHEAA President and CEO. "During National College Savings Month is an excellent time to start, but it's important to continue pursuing knowledge at every turn along their journey to higher education. These webinars are an excellent place to begin."

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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 pheaa.org/about/press-releases/.