

2020 Contest Winners

CATEGORY I

GRADUATING SENIORS

1st Place

MATTHEW NIEDBALA
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 NIEDBALA

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

USW Local 14693 Steamfitters Local 420
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



PLEASE COMPLETE THE APPLICATION AND INCLUDE IT WITH YOUR ENTRY

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.

William A. Yocum
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.