



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **PHEAA Reminds Students and Families of Approaching State Grant Deadline**

*FAFSA must be submitted by May 1, 2010*

**Harrisburg, PA (April 20, 2010)** – The Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) is reminding students and families that the application filing deadline for the need-based Pennsylvania State Grant is May 1. This deadline date applies to all new applicants who plan to enroll in an undergraduate baccalaureate degree program, a college transfer program at two-year public or junior colleges, and all renewal applicants.

Families must complete and submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to determine eligibility for a Pennsylvania State Grant. If families have not submitted their FAFSA, they can visit [PHEAA.org/fafsa](http://PHEAA.org/fafsa) to access the online application. Completing the FAFSA online saves time and helps eliminate errors.

The site includes free information and assistance in completing the form. PHEAA.org also has complete eligibility and application information on the State Grant Program. After completing the FAFSA, first-time State Grant applicants will receive an email directing them to PHEAA's Account Access to provide additional information necessary for the State Grant program.

“Students considering higher education should apply for a Pennsylvania State Grant,” said Representative William Adolph, Jr., Chairman of the PHEAA Board. “With today’s jobs in high demand and in short supply, many people are returning to school to enhance their employment options. It is especially important that part-time and returning students may also qualify for a State Grant to help pay their college costs.”

More than 170,000 Pennsylvania students received a State Grant during the 2009-10 academic year. The Pennsylvania State Grant Program is administered by PHEAA at no cost to taxpayers, allowing every appropriated dollar to go directly to students.

“Some students think they don’t qualify for a State Grant because their family might earn too much money,” noted Senator Sean Logan, Vice Chairman of the PHEAA Board. “What they may not realize is that there are a number of factors other than income that are taken into consideration when determining eligibility, including the number of family members in a household, the number of students enrolled in college, and the cost of the school they plan to attend.”

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Students who are first-time applicants planning to enroll in a business, trade or technical school, a hospital school of nursing, or a terminal (non-transferable two-year degree) program at a community, junior or four-year college have until August 1 to file their FAFSA to determine eligibility for a State Grant award.

Students and families with questions about the FAFSA or the State Grant Program can also call toll-free at 800-692-7392.

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### **About PHEAA**

Created in 1963 by the Pennsylvania General Assembly, the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) has evolved into one of the nation's leading nonprofit student aid organizations. Today, PHEAA is a national provider of student financial aid services, serving millions of students and thousands of schools through its loan guaranty, loan servicing, financial aid processing systems and outreach programs. As a nonprofit organization belonging to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, PHEAA devotes its energy, resources and imagination to developing innovative ways to ease the financial burden of higher education for Pennsylvania's students, families, schools and taxpayers.