



## ***MEDIA RELEASE***

**For Immediate Release**

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### **Rep. Mike Peifer and Sen. Wayne D. Fontana Re-Elected Chair & Vice Chair of PHEAA Board of Directors**

**Harrisburg, PA (February 20, 2020)** – The Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) announced today that Representative Mike Peifer has been re-elected as Chairman of the PHEAA Board of Directors. Senator Wayne D. Fontana was re-elected as Vice Chairman of the Board.

Serving his eighth term, Representative Mike Peifer has represented the 139th Legislative District in Pike and Wayne Counties since 2006. He currently serves as Chairman of the House Finance Committee and is a member of the Professional Licensure Committee. He has been a member of PHEAA Board of Directors since 2010 and has served as Chairman since 2017.

“It’s an honor to be asked to serve Pennsylvania students and families as Chairman of the PHEAA Board of Directors,” said Representative Peifer. “I look forward to another successful year, serving with a group of community-minded colleagues dedicated to helping families overcome the challenges of paying for college without the burden of excessive student loan debt.”

PHEAA was created in 1963 by the Pennsylvania General Assembly with the mission of creating affordable access to higher education and has since evolved into one of the nation’s leading student aid organizations.

“PHEAA is unique among Commonwealth agencies in that we open doors to a college education, especially for those who might otherwise not be able to afford it, while also saving taxpayers millions of dollars each year”, said Senator Fontana. “This makes our work particularly rewarding - not only from the perspective of a State Senator - but also as a parent and grandparent who has experienced many of the same college-planning challenges that families across Pennsylvania are facing every year.”

Senator Fontana currently serves as the Democratic Chair of the Senate Intergovernmental Operations Committee. He is also a member of the Community, Economic and Recreational Development, Urban Affairs and Housing, Law and Justice, Policy, and Rules and Executive Nominations Committees.

(more)

PHEAA's business earnings are used to support its public service mission and pay its operating costs, including the administration of the PA State Grant Program and other student aid programs. This saves taxpayers millions of dollars annually while ensuring that every dollar that the General Assembly appropriates to a student aid program goes directly to Pennsylvania students.

Over the last 10 years, PHEAA has provided nearly \$1 billion from its business earnings to support student aid programs for Pennsylvania students and families.

PHEAA also announced that the following members have been elected to serve on the Board's Executive Committee:

- Representative James R. Roebuck, Jr. (D-Philadelphia) – Chairman
- Representative Sheryl Delozier (R-Mechanicsburg) – Vice Chairman
- Senator Ryan Aument (R- Landisville)
- Senator Vincent J. Hughes (D-Philadelphia)
- Honorable Roy Reinard (New Hope)
- Chancellor Timothy R. Thyreen (Waynesburg)

For more information, please visit [PHEAA.org](http://PHEAA.org).

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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 student aid organizations. Today PHEAA is a national provider of student financial services, serving millions of students and thousands of schools through its loan guaranty, loan servicing, financial aid processing, outreach, and other student aid programs.

PHEAA's earnings are used to support its public service mission and to pay its operating costs, including administration of the PA State Grant and other state-funded student aid programs. As the only major federal loan servicer with a nonprofit public service mission, PHEAA devotes its energy and resources to help ease the financial burden of higher education for its primary stakeholders – Pennsylvania students and families.

PHEAA conducts its student loan servicing operations nationally as FedLoan Servicing and American Education Services (AES). PHEAA operates its digital technology division as Avereo.