PHEAA OFFERS NEW FINANCIAL AID PROGRAM TO BENEFIT PENNSYLVANIA STUDENTS

If you are thinking that a traditional four-year college degree is not for you but have interests in working in the energy, advanced materials, diversified manufacturing, agriculture or food production fields, the Pennsylvania Targeted Industry Program or PA-TIP could help you pay for your training.

Programs in agricultural business and management, communications systems installation and repair, dairy science, diesel mechanics technician, electrician, metal fabricator, machine tool technology and solar energy technology are just a few examples of more than 70 programs of study that are eligible for financial assistance under PA-TIP.

Eligible courses of study must be more than 10 weeks in length and less than two academic years in length. Additionally, courses of study must not be eligible to receive a need-based Pennsylvania State Grant. Participation requirements for students and schools, along with a complete list of eligible programs of study, can be found at PHEAA.org/PA-TIP.

PHEAA’s Board of Directors provided $6 million in funding from PHEAA’s business earning to support the program for 2014-15 without using taxpayer dollars. Governor Tom Corbett recommended the creation of the new program in his 2013-14 Budget proposal for the Commonwealth in order to assist Pennsylvania students seeking specialized training.

PA-TIP provides awards up to the equivalent of the maximum State Grant award or 75% of your allowable cost, whichever is less. Awards can be used to cover costs such as tuition, fees, books, supplies and a living expense allowance.

You must be a Pennsylvania resident, high school graduate and be enrolled in a qualifying course of study at a participating school on a full-time basis.

If you are interested in receiving an award, you must submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which is used to determine need, and a PA-TIP application – available at PHEAA.org/PA-TIP.

Awards will be provided on a first-come, first served basis until all funding has been exhausted.

For up-to-the-minute news and information on PA-TIP, schedules for financial aid events, reminders of financial aid deadlines and video clips offering tips on how to plan for higher education, please join PHEAA on Facebook at facebook.com/pheaa.aid.