



# PENNSYLVANIA AFL-CIO

President Angela Ferritto

Secretary-Treasurer Maurice Cobb

January 3, 2025

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

The Pennsylvania AFL-CIO is pleased to announce its **2025 Scholarship Essay Contest**. We thank affiliate unions that have contributed to the award money for the Scholarship Essay Contests, in the past. **Now we are writing to request your financial support and your help in promoting the 2025 Essay Contest.**

The Essay Contest provides an opportunity for high school and post-secondary students to learn about the Labor Movement's important contributions to the social, economic, and political development of our country. It also reminds students – the next generation of workers – about the importance of protecting the Labor Movement's gains, for their own wellbeing in current and future workplaces.

**Awards are offered to students in two categories: Graduating High School Seniors (class of 2025) and All Post-Secondary Students. The award amounts are: First Place - \$2,000, Second Place - \$1,500, Third Place - \$1,000.**

The essay topics for each category are as follows:

**Category I – Graduating High School Seniors:**

How do Labor Unions align with broader social justice movements? In your opinion, what role do Unions play in advocating equality and equity in the workplace?

**Category II – Students Attending an Accredited, Post-Secondary Institution:**

Labor Unions often play a significant role in politics. How do you think unions should engage with political systems, and what should be their focus when advocating for workers' interests?

If you post this information on your website, please note that the scholarships are only awarded to Pennsylvania AFL-CIO affiliated union members and their immediate family members. All submissions must be received by email to [monica@paafcio.org](mailto:monica@paafcio.org) by April 15, 2025. Essays will be judged in May 2025, and awards will be made in June 2025.

Enclosed you will find a Scholarship Application form for distribution to your members. You may make copies of this form.

If your union affiliate can contribute to the award money, please make your check payable to the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO and mail it to: PA AFL-CIO, Attention: Maurice Cobb, Secretary-Treasurer, 600 North Second St., Harrisburg, PA 17101.

Thank you for your support of the Scholarship Essay Contest, whether it be monetary, helping to publicize it, or both.

In Solidarity,



Angela Ferritto, President



Maurice Cobb, Secretary-Treasurer

# 2025 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.

Over the years, we have awarded tens of thousands of dollars to students furthering their education.

Scholarships are available exclusively to Pennsylvania AFL-CIO affiliated union members and their immediate family members.

Scholarships are offered to students in two categories: graduating high school seniors (Class of 2025), and all post-secondary students.

## Essay Contest Categories

Labor unions have a rich history of aligning with broader social justice movements, fighting for economic and social equality for all. To effectively champion workers' interests, unions must actively engage in the political arena, lobbying for pro-worker legislation, supporting progressive candidates, and educating the public on the importance of a strong labor movement.

### Category 1: Graduating High School Seniors

How do Labor Unions align with broader social justice movements? In your opinion, what role do Unions play in advocating equality and equity in the workplace?

### Category 2: Post-Secondary Students

Labor Unions often play a significant role in politics. How do you think unions should engage with political systems, and what should be their focus when advocating for workers' interests?



## Scholarship Awards

First Place	\$2,000
Second Place	\$1,500
Third Place	\$1,000

## 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 not qualify.
- Titles must include the Category for which you are applying.
- Your application form (located on the back of this flyer) must be included with your essay in a PDF file, or as a separate PDF attachment.
- Entries sent in the incorrect format will not be considered.
- Entries must be sent to [monica@paaficio.org](mailto:monica@paaficio.org) by April 15, 2025.

The PDF version of this flyer is on [www.paaficio.org](http://www.paaficio.org)

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS APRIL 15, 2025**

**THANK YOU TO OUR 2024 DONORS!**

United Steelworkers District 10  
Plumbers Local 27  
Laborers Local 57  
UMWA Local 1368  
IBEW Local 712  
IBEW Local 1319  
USW Local 1196  
UAW Local 1193

Neshaminy Federation of Teachers  
Pittsburgh Metro Postal Workers  
NWPALF - Venango-Clarion Chapter  
IBEW Local 459  
IUOE Local 66  
United Association Local 524  
USW Local 14693  
Montgomery County CLC

***If you have questions:***

***Please contact Monica Virgilio  
at 717-231-2853, or email  
[monica@paaficio.org](mailto:monica@paaficio.org)***

PLEASE COMPLETE THE APPLICATION BELOW IN FULL AND  
INCLUDE IT WITH YOUR ESSAY SUBMISSION IN A PDF FILE.  
**INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.**

\*IF YOU ARE CHOSEN AS A WINNER, PLEASE BE PREPARED TO SUBMIT A  
HEADSHOT VIA EMAIL TO BE FEATURED ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS\*

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.

SIGNATURE OF CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL OR LOCAL UNION

THE ERNIE ESPOSITO  
2025 SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY CONTEST  
SPONSORED BY

THE GREATER JOHNSTOWN-SOMERSET CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL, AFL-CIO

SCHOLARSHIP

SCHOLARSHIP

CATEGORY I

CATEGORY II

Since the early 1990's, The Greater Johnstown-Somerset Central Labor Council has administered an annual essay contest encouraging students to conduct research about the many contributions Organized Labor has made to the American society and current issues that affect all working people. To date, \$153,500.00 has been awarded to 126 individuals.

Graduating High School Seniors Class of 2025.

All Post-Secondary Students.

SUBJECT SAFETY:

SUBJECT ORGANIZING:

Explain the importance of a Union led safety committee.

Explain the legal steps of an organizing drive a Union must take to be successful.

Scholarships are offered to students in 2 categories:

AWARDS\*

AWARDS\*

First Prize - \$ 2000.00

First Prize - \$2000.00

- Graduating High School Seniors (Class of 2025)
- All Post-Secondary Students.

This winner also will be offered a paid internship for the following year (approximately \$4000.00 value) courtesy of

Ameriserve Financial.

Second Prize - \$1750.00

Third Prize - \$1500.00

Essays will be judged in March 2025; the winner and 2 guests will be invited to attend the Workers Memorial Banquet in April 2025.

Second Prize - \$1750.00

Third Prize - \$1500.00

\*Awards will be written directly to school of choice. Individuals are limited to winning this category once in a lifetime.

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## The Ernie Esposito Scholarship Essay Contest

### Rules and Application Form

The **Category I** applicant must be a graduating high school senior, be enrolled in a full-time degree program or a fully accredited institution. The applicant's parent, legal guardian or grandparent is a full dues-paying Affiliate Union member of The Greater Johnstown/Somerset CLC, AFL-CIO or applicant is a student enrolled in one of the High Schools located in Cambria or Somerset Counties.

The **Category II** applicant at the time the scholarship is awarded, be enrolled in a full-time degree program or a fully accredited institution. The applicant's parent, legal guardian or grandparent must be a full dues-paying Affiliate Union member of The Greater Johnstown/Somerset CLC, AFL-CIO.

Applicants must submit a 1,000-word essay on the subject assigned to their appropriate category.

The essay must be typed and neatly prepared. The titles must be kept as they appear on this brochure and the application form must be filled out completely.

**The Essay and Application form must be mailed with a postmark of no later than April 8, 2025 to be judged.**

Mail to: Johnstown/Somerset CLC  
326 Beautyline Dr  
Salix, PA 15952  
Attn.: Scholarship Committee



The Ernie Esposito

2025

Annual

Scholarship

Essay

Contest

Sponsored By

The Greater

Johnstown/Somerset

CLC, AFL-CIO

Any questions contact:

Craig Horner                      John Swanson  
President                              Vice-President  
Executive Board

Dave Carey

Email: [d.carey@afscme13.org](mailto:d.carey@afscme13.org)