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Scholarship money available to Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association members, their children, and employees through Ridge Scholarship Fund

CAMP HILL (December 2, 2019) – Need money for college? The Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association (PFMA) is now accepting applicants for the 2020 Thomas R. and Laura Ridge Scholarship.

Member company owners, their children, and employees are eligible to apply for the scholarships, which range from $2,000 to $2,500. You can find applications at PFMA.org > Scholarships > 2020 Ridge Scholarship. Applications must be received by March 2, 2020.

“This is a great opportunity to earn money to use toward educational pursuits,” PFMA President & CEO Alex Baloga said. “We are very thankful for our partnering organizations such as Wawa, Karns, Sheetz, Rutter’s, Giant/Martin’s, and the Northwestern PA Food Council who donate to the Ridge Fund Endowment and help advance the journeys of so many deserving students.”

The scholarship’s judging panel selects winners based on academic record, school and community involvement, an essay, and recommendations from school and work.

In 2019, twenty-one students received a total of $44,000 through the program.

The Ridge Scholarship honors former Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge’s father, who was a member of the food industry for 25 years, and his mother Laura, who was a great advocate of education for Tom Ridge, his brother David and sister Vikki. PFMA, the Northwestern Pennsylvania Food Council and the Pittsburgh Association of Manufacturers Representatives hosted dinners through the years to raise money for the fund, which is now an endowment.

Since 1996, 556 students have received the Ridge Scholarships, totaling more than $1.1 million.

About PFMA
The Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association, a statewide trade association, advocates the views of nearly 800 convenience stores, supermarkets, independent grocers, wholesalers and consumer product vendors. PFMA members operate more than 3,500 stores and employ more than 200,000 Pennsylvanians. For more information on PFMA, visit www.pfma.org.

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