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NEWS RELEASE

PHEAA Offers Online Summer State Grant Application *Students will get results faster and eliminate time-consuming errors*

Harrisburg, PA (June 11, 2008) – The Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) announced today that a new, online application for a Pennsylvania Summer State Grant is available at PHEAA.org.

Students using the online Summer State Grant application will save time, receive earlier notification and experience the convenience of applying 24/7 from their home computers. The online application features interactive online assistance which helps eliminate errors and allows PHEAA staff to communicate to applicants via email.

The secure online application is easily accessible at PHEAA.org. Once the awarding of Summer State Grants begins, students can check back in 24 hours to see their application status.

Currently, students file a paper application or their school provides a roster of students who plan on attending school during the summer semester. All tracking and communication is done manually.

“This is an improvement for students, financial aid professionals and our staff,” notes PHEAA President and CEO, Jim Preston. “The move to online convenience is saving students and families time and making the application process easier while enabling staff to operate more efficiently.”

Applicants for the 2008 Summer State Grant may choose either the traditional paper application or the new, online version. For the 2009 Summer State Grant all applicants will use the online application.

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Summer applicants must have a completed State Grant application and a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on file plus the separate application for Summer State Grant awards. The deadline for Summer State Grant applications is August 15, 2008.

Typically, more than 17,000 Pennsylvania students receive Summer State Grant awards totaling almost \$20 million.

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About PHEAA

In order to support its public service mission over the last 44 years, PHEAA has evolved into the nation's leading nonprofit student aid organization. PHEAA's mission is powered by American Education Services (AES), its commercial business enterprise. AES is a national provider of student financial aid services, serving millions of students and thousands of schools through its loan guaranty, loan servicing, and financial aid processing systems. As a nonprofit organization, PHEAA devotes its energy, resources and imagination to developing innovative ways to ease the financial burden of higher education for Pennsylvania's students, families and taxpayers.

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