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## **High School Civic Engagement Award Program Sees Significant Growth in 2020**

**Harrisburg, PA** — The Pennsylvania Departments of State and Education announced today that 42 high schools in the commonwealth won [Governor's Civic Engagement Awards](#) (GCEA) for registering to vote 4,035 eligible students in the 2019-20 school year. Nearly 160 schools participated in the program.

The GCEA program encourages Pennsylvania high school students to participate in elections by voting, organizing voter registration drives and volunteering as poll workers. Students are eligible to register if they are 18 years of age or will turn 18 on or before the date of the next primary, special, municipal or general election.

“Congratulations to the schools and individual students who won this prestigious award. By engaging and registering our youngest eligible voters, they are strengthening the future of our democracy,” Secretary of State Kathy Boockvar said. “I am very pleased to see the growing popularity of this 3-year-old program that encourages peer-to-peer civic education and participation as poll workers and voters.”

During this school year, which was cut short by the COVID-19 pandemic, 2 ½ times more schools participated and nearly twice as many schools won awards than last year.

In the 2018-19 school year, 63 high schools participated in the GCEA program, 23 schools won awards, and 3,019 eligible students were registered to vote. In the first year of the program, 16 high schools earned awards and 2,955 eligible students were registered to vote.

“Pennsylvania students are civic-minded and care about the future of their communities,” Education Secretary Pedro A. Rivera said. “Registering to vote is a critical step to having their voices heard, and I’m proud that so many students are prepared to exercise their right to vote.”

This year’s 42 winning schools are in 23 counties across the commonwealth, plus one statewide charter school. PA Virtual Charter School is the first virtual school to earn a GCEA award.

Twenty-four schools earned Gold Level Awards for registering to vote at least 85 percent of their eligible students. Three schools won the Gold Level Award for the third year in a row: Carlisle High School in Cumberland County and Northwest Area Junior/Senior High School and Wyoming Valley West High School in Luzerne County

Eighteen schools earned Silver Level Awards for registering to vote between 65 percent and 84 percent of their eligible students.

The winning schools are listed by county below:

<b><u>County</u></b>	<b><u>School Name</u></b>	<b><u>Award</u></b>
Allegheny	Brentwood High School	Gold
	City Charter High School	Silver
	Deer Lakes High School	Silver
	Elizabeth Forward High School	Silver
Armstrong	Leechburg Middle/Senior High School	Gold
Berks	Conrad Weiser High School	Gold
Bucks	Morrisville High School	Silver
Cambria	Westmont Hilltop Junior/Senior High School	Silver
Chester	Conestoga High School	Silver
	Downingtown STEM Academy	Silver
Cumberland	Carlisle High School	Gold
	Boiling Springs High School	Silver
Delaware	Haverford High School	Gold
	The Academy of Notre Dame de Namur	Gold
Erie	North East High School	Silver
Franklin	Fannett-Metal High School	Gold
Jefferson/Elk	Brockway Area Junior/Senior High School	Gold
Lancaster	Garden Spot High School	Silver
Lawrence	Union Area High School	Gold
Lehigh	Building 21 Allentown	Gold
	Moravian Academy	Silver
Luzerne	Northwest Area Junior/Senior High School	Gold
	Wyoming Valley West High School	Gold
	Dallas High School	Silver
	Elmer L. Meyers Junior/Senior High School	Silver
Lycoming	South Williamsport Area High School	Gold
Mercer	Greenville Junior/Senior High School	Gold
	Sharpsville Area High School	Gold

Montgomery	AIM Academy	Gold
Philadelphia	Arts Academy at Benjamin Rush	Gold
	Central High School	Gold
	Friends Select School	Gold
	Girard Academic Music Program	Gold
	Murrell Dobbins CTE High School	Gold
	Parkway Northwest High School for Peace & Social Justice	Gold
	Bodine High School for International Affairs	Silver
Venango	Cranberry Area Junior/Senior High School	Gold
Washington	Trinity High School	Silver
Westmoreland	Mt. Pleasant Area Junior/Senior High School	Gold
	Franklin Regional High School	Silver
Westmoreland/ Armstrong	Kiski Area High School	Silver
Statewide	PA Virtual Charter School	Silver

In addition, 12 students from seven counties won individual GCEA awards. They were nominated by educators at their schools for being leaders in student voter registration and for their service as poll workers on election day in November 2019.

Regional recognition events for the winners were cancelled due to the COVID-19 emergency. Instead, individual and school winners will receive their awards in the mail.

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