



The PAEP Zulene Mayfield Scholarship

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS FROM UNDERREPRESENTED GROUPS

The Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Professionals (PAEP) is pleased to announce its 2023 scholarship program. Interested students should complete the attached application and return it to Kristin Aiosa, Student & Scholarship Committee Co-Chair, at kaiosa@jmt.com.

Note: Applications must be emailed by **May 30, 2023** to be considered for the 2023 Scholarship Award.

1) AMOUNT AND SCHOLARSHIP DESCRIPTION:

One scholarship in the amount of \$1,500 is awarded to a current full-time undergraduate student during the Spring 2023 Semester that belongs to a traditionally underrepresented group in environmental sciences. Applicants must be pursuing studies in environmental science, or a related major, at a two-year or four-year institution in Pennsylvania with the intention of working in the environmental science field. The scholarship honors the dedication and excellence during one's education.

2) SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY:

- a. The applicant must be a citizen of the United States or have permanent resident status.
- b. The applicant must be enrolled full-time in a two-year or four-year college or university in Pennsylvania leading to a degree in environmental science or related field and planning to pursue a career in environmental science.
- c. The applicant must belong to one or more of the following groups that have traditionally been underrepresented in environmental sciences: Black/African Americans, Hispanic/Latinos, Native Americans, Asian Americans, Middle Eastern, Indigenous Alaskans, Native Pacific Islanders (Hawaiian/Polynesian/Micronesian).
- d. The applicant is eligible to receive a scholarship from PAEP only one time.
- e. The applicant must submit copies of college transcripts. Unofficial transcripts will be acceptable.
- f. If selected, the recipient is encouraged to attend the 2023 Annual PAEP Conference to receive recognition for their award in person. PAEP's 2023 Annual Conference, Communities, Corridors & Connections Conference (C4), is scheduled for September 20-22, 2023 at the Wyndham Garden, State College, PA.

3) EVALUATION: Each applicant will be evaluated on a point-count system as described below:

- a. Performance Factors, 15 points maximum as follows:

Students will be rated on their cumulative grade point average at the time they apply for the scholarship. The number of science courses completed will also be considered.

- b. Evaluation of Applicant, 45 points (55 points maximum including bonus points) as follows:

- Evaluation of the applicant's activities and honors, work experience, leadership positions, volunteerism, and distinguishing qualifications (30 points maximum).
- Evaluation of career goals, based on content, clarity of ambitions, grammar, spelling and neatness (15 points maximum).

- Dependent of a current member of PAEP (5 point bonus). Current student member of PAEP (5 point bonus). **Please note that student members are eligible for FREE membership.**

c. Personal Recommendation, 15 points maximum as follows:

One of the student’s current professors, faculty, employee supervisor, or volunteer organization leaders should provide an objective evaluation regarding character and motivation on the enclosed “Recommendation Form”. This form can be emailed separate from the Student’s Application.

4) INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING APPLICATION FORM

- Be as complete as possible while filling out this application. Each portion of the application has a specific point value. Judges will score each section separately. Incomplete applications will **not** be considered.
- Forms must be typed or neatly printed. Points may be lost for poor grammar, incorrect spelling, illegibility, or lack of neatness. Proofread carefully.
- All Scholarship application materials and instructions can be found on the PAEP website (<https://www.paep.org/>).

5) STUDENT MEMBERSHIP

Each student is eligible to receive a FREE student membership to PAEP when they submit a membership form. The membership form can be found on the PAEP website (<https://www.paep.org/membership-account/membership-levels/>). Please complete the form and submit it with your scholarship application. Although completion of the membership form is not required, 5 bonus points are given to all students who become student members.

Questions may be directed to Kristin Aiosa, Student & Scholarship Committee Co-Chair, at kaiosa@jmt.com.

In 2023, the PAEP membership elected to name this scholarship after Zulene Mayfield.

Chester City’s Zulene Mayfield fondly recalls a quiet life three-plus decades ago, as a new homeowner on the city’s west end, a short driving distance from family members. Nothing seemed out of the ordinary — until word spread among neighbors of a massive trash incinerator under construction behind a fence, just feet away from her block. The Westinghouse (now known as the Covanta) trash incinerator (and successful and unsuccessful efforts to build other, similar polluting facilities) soon altered Zulene’s neighborhood and all of Chester City, in what is one of the more egregious examples of environmental racism.



The incinerator changed Zulene, as well. More precisely, Zulene was infuriated by the sheer fact that the powers-that-be (governmental, corporate) could blatantly choose to rob Chester residents of the most basic elements of a quality life — the right to breathe clean air and not be subjected to elevated risks for health problems, such as asthma and cancer. Zulene did not choose to be a community problem solver. The problem — the transformation of the Chester waterfront into a “waste magnet” — imposed itself on her, her neighbors, and the larger community. In the face of wrongdoing and the abuse of power, Zulene found herself with little choice but to take on the fight against the largest trash incinerator in the United States. Motivated by her clear sense of right and wrong, her fight continues.



Zulene was the driving force behind the creation of the Chester Residents Concerned for Quality Living (CRCQL) organization and their goal to make sure that families in Chester live lives free from polluting industries. Today, CRCQL — under Zulene’s leadership — remains incredibly active, broadening its tactics to include education campaigns,

assembling data on the consequences of incineration, working with local college campuses, and convincing suburban communities (that send their trash to Covanta) they too have a stake and responsibility in fighting for environmental justice.

To learn more about Zulene Mayfield and CRCQL, visit the CRCQL's website <https://chesterpaej.org/>.