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**NEWS RELEASE**

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## **PHEAA's Career and College Planning Website Gets Total Makeover**

*EducationPlanner.org offers new resources for students, parents and counselors*

**Harrisburg, PA (June 30, 2011)** – The Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) announced today the launch of its redesigned career and college planning website, [EducationPlanner.org](http://EducationPlanner.org).

EducationPlanner has received a complete redesign including new content, improved navigation, and more interactive activities, in addition to a more modern look. Some of the website's new features include:

- Checklists for career planning, preparing for school and paying for school
- Assessments that identify students' strengths and weaknesses
- Career videos
- Savings calculators and loan payment calculators
- Opportunities to submit questions and receive expert advice in the "Ask a Counselor" section

EducationPlanner offers links to the best career and college planning resources available on the Web. Students can explore hundreds of careers through O\*NET OnLine, get information about hundreds of colleges from the College Board and search for scholarships at FastWeb.

"PHEAA's online resources are often the first contact that college-bound families have with us," notes Representative William Adolph, PHEAA Board Chairman. "We want to make sure that their experience is positive and that the information they are looking for is easily accessed."

The "Parents" section focuses on their role in helping students transition from high school to college. Parents can find information on saving for college, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and tips for searching for scholarships.

The "Counselor" section provides the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) National Standards for Students, guidance on using EducationPlanner as a classroom tool, information on establishing a job shadow program and guidelines for hosting student aid and FAFSA completion events.

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“Today’s students are technically advanced and they want quick and easy access to information,” said Senator Wayne Fontana, PHEAA Board Vice Chairman.  
“EducationPlanner meets their needs as a one-stop shop for comprehensive higher education information.”

The site is designed for middle and high school students who are thinking about careers and college, but it is helpful for returning and non-traditional students as well.

EducationPlanner was established in 2004 and has received almost 5 million visits. In 2005, the site was named a *Forbes Favorite* by Forbes.com.

For information on the higher education financial aid process, schedules for upcoming financial aid nights and FAFSA Completion Sessions, reminders of financial aid deadlines, and video clips offering tips and information pertaining to planning for higher education, students can join PHEAA on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/pheaa.aid](http://www.facebook.com/pheaa.aid).

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#### **About PHEAA**

Created in 1963 by the Pennsylvania General Assembly, the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) has evolved into one of the nation’s leading student aid organizations. Today, PHEAA is a national provider of student financial aid services, serving millions of students and thousands of schools through its loan guaranty, loan servicing, financial aid processing, outreach and other student aid programs.

PHEAA’s earnings are used to support its public service mission and to pay its operating costs, including administration of the Pennsylvania State Grant and other state-funded student aid programs. PHEAA continues to devote its energy, resources and imagination to developing innovative ways to ease the financial burden of higher education for students, families, schools and taxpayers.

PHEAA conducts its student loan servicing activities nationally as FedLoan Servicing and American Education Services (AES).

#### **About FedLoan Servicing**

Building on PHEAA’s 45-plus years of student aid experience, FedLoan Servicing was established to support the U.S. Department of Education’s ability to service student loans owned by the federal government. FedLoan Servicing is one of a limited number of organizations approved by the Department of Education to service these loans and is dedicated to supporting borrowers with easy and convenient ways to manage their student loans. For more information, visit [www.MyFedLoan.org](http://www.MyFedLoan.org).

#### **About AES**

American Education Services (AES) was created to guarantee and service a variety of Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP) and private student loan products for lending partners throughout the nation. AES is a national leader in providing quality customer service to millions of student loan borrowers through its highly-trained and experienced customer service representatives. For more information, visit [www.aesSuccess.org](http://www.aesSuccess.org).