



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Press Release

PARTNERS FOR



CLEAN AIR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 10, 2022

Partners for Clean Air accepting scholarship applications

\$2,500 awards available to qualified Lake, Porter, and LaPorte County high school seniors

VALPARAISO - The Partners for Clean Air (PCA) today announced they are accepting scholarship applications through March 7, 2022, for the Partners for Clean Air Scholarship. This scholarship allows PCA to give back to the Northwest Indiana community by helping qualified students succeed in post-secondary education goals aligned with clean air and public health.

“Partners for Clean Air is thankful for and proud of the work of our members in supporting the next generation of air quality leaders through our scholarship program,” said PCA Steering Committee member Scott Nelson, director of business development for Telamon Energy Solutions. “We encourage all eligible high school seniors to apply and to think about how their future career aspirations can help further our clean air goals.”

Up to three scholarships of \$2,500 will be awarded to qualified high school seniors in Lake, Porter or LaPorte counties to assist with post-secondary education expenses. Qualified students must have a grade point average of 3.0 or higher, attend an accredited college, university or trade school in the fall of 2022, and pursue a two- or four-year college degree or two-year trade school certification or degree. Indiana institutions are preferred, but not required. Any applicant will be considered provided they demonstrate how their planned field of study supports the goals of Partners for Clean Air. Preference may be given to students pursuing a course of study in the environmental sciences.

All applications will be vetted through an extensive, blind evaluation process by members of the PCA Scholarship Committee and approved by the full Steering Committee, both of which are comprised of representatives of member organizations.

Partners for Clean Air launched the scholarship program in 2020 and has since awarded a total of \$12,500 in scholarships to five deserving Northwest Indiana high school seniors.

“I am so thankful for your support of my college journey,” said Lucia Otten of Valparaiso, a 2021 scholarship recipient. “...thank you, PCA scholarship (Committee), for helping me afford the adventures of college and focus my energies on my studies.”

The 2022 scholarship winners will be announced at the Partners for Clean Air Awards Ceremony on Earth Day - Friday, April 22 - in the Clipper Room at the Hammond Marina, with the financial distribution occurring in August before the start of classes. A full list of scholarship rules and the application are available online at www.idem.IN.gov/partnerships/partners-for-clean-air/partners-for-clean-air-scholarship/.

About Partners for Clean Air

[Partners for Clean Air](#) is a coalition of Northwest Indiana businesses, industries, local governments, community groups and individuals committed to improving overall air quality and public health through voluntary actions. Members of the Partners for Clean Air Program develop Air Quality Action Plans designed to be implemented on Air Quality Action Days as a way of reducing harmful pollutants.

About Air Quality Action Days

Air Quality Action Days (AQAD) are days when ground level ozone pollution or fine particulate matter could build to unhealthy levels in the outdoor air. IDEM issues AQAD advisories for ozone and PM2.5 based on [air quality forecasts](#), [air quality standards](#), and [Air Quality Index \(AQI\) categories](#). When AQADs are predicted, Hoosiers can [take action](#) to protect their health and protect air quality. For more information and to subscribe to alerts, please visit www.smogwatch.IN.gov.

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