



**For Immediate Release  
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**CHESLA Awards \$487,500 to Connecticut Students Under Annual Scholarship Program**

**Hartford, CT, August 12, 2020-** The Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority (CHESLA) announced that its annual scholarship program will distribute \$487,500 in financial assistance among 167 Connecticut residents for the 2020-2021 academic year.

This cycle of the CHESLA scholarship program allocation is for students in degree-granting programs. Maximum awards are \$3,000 for a full-time student and \$1,500 for a part-time student. The awardees represent 64 Connecticut towns and cities and 23 Connecticut colleges and universities.

Jeanette W. Weldon, CHESLA Executive Director stated, "CHESLA is very happy to offer these awards to Connecticut students. While we are disappointed that we cannot meet and honor our recipients in person, we take pride in helping them achieve their higher education goals, especially during this unprecedented time. All of our recipients have incredible stories of perseverance and we look forward to their continued success." CHESLA plans to post a video montage celebrating all the recipients on its website.

The online application opened on the CHESLA website March 2, 2020 with a deadline of May 1, 2020. In order to be eligible for the program, applicants had to meet criteria including being a Connecticut resident, and being a degree-seeking undergraduate student enrolled in (at least half-time) and attending an eligible Connecticut state or non-profit degree-granting institution of higher education for the 2020-2021 academic year.

CHESLA's scholarship application for students pursuing a healthcare or manufacturing certificate program from an accredited non-profit Connecticut institution of higher education opened on July 1<sup>st</sup>. The certificate program scholarship awards are \$1,250. The application is an open application available on a first come, first serve basis until funds run out. Non-credit certificate programs qualify for this scholarship if they are earned from an accredited, non-profit Connecticut higher education institution.

CHESLA serves as a leading resource for Connecticut students as they plan their college education-- not only by providing financing, but also by providing information and tools for students and families to make informed decisions. By providing grants and additional financing options, CHESLA works to enhance the competitiveness of Connecticut institutions of higher education and helps the State meet its workforce needs. Since inception in 2015, CHESLA's scholarship program has disbursed \$9.8 million, impacting nearly 5,200 students.