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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LDHL Providing 489 Interest-Free Loans to Lancaster County Students Pursuing Higher Education

LANCASTER, PA – Lancaster Dollars for Higher Learning (LDHL) is providing 489 interest-free college loans to Lancaster County students for the 2017-2018 academic year. Each loan is valued at \$1,700.

As we are all too aware, average tuition increases have far outpaced annual inflation. LDHL's mission is to help students with these rising costs. Our recipients will be attending 135 different institutions across the country. They have earned their diplomas from 33 different high schools, including public, private, GED and home schools.

Applications are accepted from February through April each year. The interest-free student loans are awarded to eligible full-time students who have been accepted at accredited two- and four-year higher- learning institutions, including technical and trade schools.

"Lancaster County students who work hard to build better lives for themselves and their families deserve some assistance to help them achieve their education goals with less debt hanging over their heads," said Lisa Lewis, Board president.

LDHL awards the need-based loans to about 95 percent of applicants. To qualify, a student must be a legal resident of Lancaster County, PA. In addition, the applicant needs to have completed the Federal Application for Student Aid (FAFSA) and have received a letter of acceptance from an accredited school.

The nonprofit group makes payment directly to the school to be applied against each student's tuition expense, and the student begins repaying the loan six months after graduation or withdrawal from school. A student may receive a total of four loans while attending an undergraduate or graduate school full time.

Founded in 1961, the group now known as Lancaster Dollars for Higher Learning has awarded more than 10,000 interest-free loans to Lancaster County students. The program is funded through previous loan repayments, community contributions, and investment interest.

To learn more about Lancaster Dollars for Higher Learning, visit lancdollars.org or follow us on Facebook or Twitter @lancdollars.

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The mission of Lancaster Dollars for Higher Learning is to provide financial resources to Lancaster County residents in support of their post secondary educational goals.