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### PHLF to Award Scholarships to Four College-Bound Students and Honorable Mentions to Four More

**PITTSBURGH, PA**—David Brashear, Chair of the Landmarks Scholarship Committee of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation (PHLF), announced that **four high-school graduates from Allegheny County will receive $6,000 college scholarships** during a reception on Tuesday, June 14 from 5 to 7 P.M. at scholarship committee member Leroy Dillard's Hill District home. These scholarships are payable over four years and are for book and tuition expenses only. The PHLF Landmarks Scholarship Fund has awarded 64 scholarships to high-achieving students in Allegheny County since 1999: 29 of those winners graduated from Pittsburgh Public Schools and 35 graduated from other schools within Allegheny County.

The four scholarship recipients in 2016 are:

- **Benjamin Finnstrom**, from Pittsburgh CAPA, who will be attending the University of Pennsylvania and studying Architecture.

  Benjamin's essay connects his interest in architecture to the Carrie Furnace where "the opposed elements of urban artwork, industrial mechanisms, and nature" help him "feel a connection to [his] home and its history." Benjamin explains that the contrast between Pittsburgh's history as an industrial center and its new emphasis on environmentally friendly design has inspired him to pursue a career in sustainable architecture.

- **Jacob Seiler**, from North Hills High School, who will be attending Penn State University and studying Engineering.

  Jacob wrote about the McKnight Village Recreational Center, a park where he spent much of his childhood. He believes that the "Rec" is the "heart of [his] community" and wants to "preserve this tiny treasure," so he organized a 5K run and raised $5,000 to maintain the park.

- **Aaron Smolar**, from Pittsburgh Allderdice High School, who will be attending Washington University in St. Louis and studying Architecture.

  Aaron told the story of how participating in a weekly art program at the Carnegie Museum of Art helped "solidify [his] passion for architecture" by exposing him to the wonders contained in the Hall of Architecture and the Hall of Sculpture. The program had such an important impact on Aaron that he came to understand the benefits of art education and held an art show at his elementary school as a fundraiser for the teacher who originally nominated him to the program.

- **Kevin Stiles**, from North Allegheny High School, who will be attending Carnegie Mellon University and studying Computer Science.

  Kevin holds fond memories of visiting the Mellon Institute with his father, who worked there as a computational biologist. Kevin explains how his father taught him the value of both science and art, writing that to his father "knowledge was king, but creativity, a god."

**MORE**

This year, the Scholarship Committee received a record 74 applications and so many of the candidates were excellent. Therefore, the committee decided to award four Honorable Mentions—a one-time award of $250—to the following people:

- **Remy Erkel**, from Winchester Thurston, who will be attending Haverford College and studying Mathematics.

- **Mitchell Ford**, from South Fayette High School, who will be attending Catholic University of America and studying Architecture.

- **Jeewon Lee**, from North Allegheny High School, who will be attending the University of Pennsylvania and studying Biochemistry.

- **Genevieve Nieson**, from The Ellis School, who will be attending the Pratt Institute of Art and Design.

### Generous Gifts Continue to Make the Landmarks Scholarship Program Possible

PHLF's scholarship program is funded by generous contributions from the Brashear Family Named Fund and by donations to the Landmarks Scholarship Fund, including contributions to the 2008 and 2014 Scholarship Celebrations. To contribute, visit: **www.phlf.org** or contact Mary Lu Denny at PHLF (**marylu@phlf.org**; 412-471-5808, ext. 527).

"The Landmarks Scholarship recognizes students who have achieved academic excellence and possess the potential to make a difference in the Pittsburgh community and beyond," said Mr. Brashear. "The students we select already feel connected to the city and its history and will hopefully continue to serve the region as leaders in promoting PHLF's values."

The Landmarks Scholarship Program is the *culmination* of PHLF's educational programs for thousands of students (pre K-12) and the *beginning* of its programs for adults. It gives Allegheny County students an incentive to excel in school, become involved in their communities, and express their commitment to this region in a meaningful way.

**The Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation Scholarship Program is offered each year.**
Applications for the 2016-17 school year will be available in January 2017. Applicants must:
- live in Allegheny County;
- be a high school senior who has been accepted to a college or university;
- have a cumulative GPA at the end of the first semester senior year of 3.25 or greater;
- have a significant interest in local history, architecture, and/or landscape design; and
- write an essay describing a place in Allegheny County that is important to them; complete an application; and submit two letters of recommendation (one *must be from* a community representative).

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*Founded in 1964, the **Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation** is a nonprofit membership organization working to:* **identify and save** *historically significant places;* **revitalize** *historic neighborhoods, towns, and urban areas;* **preserve** *historic farms and historic designed landscapes; and* **educate** *people about the Pittsburgh region's rich architectural heritage.* ***www.phlf.org***

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