

**CONTACT:**

Brianna Strunk – Public Relations Manager  
Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau  
[bstrunk@poconos.org](mailto:bstrunk@poconos.org)  
[\(570\) 856-3050](tel:(570)856-3050)

## **Revamped Scholarship Program Benefits Future Workforce**

### **2021 Scholarships Awarded to Five Pocono Students**

July 8, 2021 – While the Poconos' hospitality industry continues to battle an employee shortage, the next generation of leaders are setting their sights on careers related to hotel, restaurant, and tourism management. To help set up the future workforce for success, the Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau ([PMVB](#)) has revamped its [Scholarship Program](#).

Scholarships are awarded annually to East Stroudsburg University ([ESU](#)) and Northampton Community College ([NCC](#)) students, along with several other scholarships presented to local high school seniors entering a two-year or four-year college or university of choice. Recipients are pursuing a degree in tourism/hospitality or supporting fields such as business, graphic design, or videography.

While the PMVB funds the program, ESU and NCC scholarship recipients are selected by their own professors and staff members. A committee of PMVB employees selects the high school recipients.

"We are thrilled to once again provide financial support to deserving students who are interested in pursuing an exciting and rewarding career in, or related to, hospitality," said Chris Barrett, Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau, President/CEO. "Tourism is the lifeblood of the Poconos, and we want to set up our future workforce for success."

Proceeds from the [10<sup>th</sup> Annual Dario Belardi Golf Tournament](#) at Hideaway Hills Golf Club on Tuesday, September 28, 2021, will benefit the PMVB Scholarship Program ([REGISTER HERE](#)). Sponsorship opportunities are available for non-golfers who would like to contribute.

Email [scholarships@poconos.org](mailto:scholarships@poconos.org) to inquire about future scholarships or to donate toward the cause.

## **2021 Scholarship Recipients:**

- Austin Coppedge – Wallenpaupack Area High School – PMVB General Scholarship – \$500
- Jack Filip – Wallenpaupack Area High School – Harry & Mary Kiesendahl Memorial Scholarship – \$1,000
- Ashleigh Wescott – Pocono Mountain East High School – PMVB Hospitality Scholarship – \$1,000
- Shannon Washburn – East Stroudsburg University – PMVB Annual Scholarship – \$1,000
- Carly Zumar – East Stroudsburg University – Bob Uguccioni Endowed Scholarship – \$1,660

[DOWNLOAD RECIPIENT PHOTOS HERE.](#)

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Pocono Mountains visitor information is available online at [PoconoMountains.com](http://PoconoMountains.com) or by phone at [\(570\) 421-5791](tel:5704215791). Follow [@PoconoTVNetwork](https://twitter.com/PoconoTVNetwork) on Twitter to stay current with up-to-date information. Established in 1934, the Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau is a private, non-profit membership organization. The PMVB is the official destination marketing organization for the four counties of Wayne, Pike, Monroe, and Carbon in Northeastern Pennsylvania.