



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
April 30, 2026

MEDIA CONTACT:
Kasey Elliott
Digital and Communications Manager
Kasey@America250PA.org

Governor Shapiro Honors America250PA Semiquincentennial Scholars at Harrisburg Luncheon

HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA — **Governor Josh Shapiro** and **First Lady Lori Shapiro** today joined **America250PA** to honor 25 outstanding Pennsylvania students as Semiquincentennial Scholars during a luncheon at the Governor’s Residence.

The students, selected from more than **1,800 applicants representing all 67 counties**, were recognized for their leadership, service, and understanding of civic values as Pennsylvania marks 250 years of American independence throughout 2026.

Each scholar will receive a **\$10,000 award** through America250PA’s Semiquincentennial Scholarship Program, supporting their pursuit of postsecondary education at colleges and universities across the Commonwealth.

“Our democracy was born here in Pennsylvania, when the Founding Fathers came together in Philadelphia to declare independence and set ourselves on a path of self-determination,” said **Governor Josh Shapiro**. “The students we’re honoring today have demonstrated that they not only know that history — they’re thinking big about how that history can and should shape the future of this Commonwealth and this country. I’m proud to celebrate each and every Semiquincentennial Scholar — students who are now heading to our world-class Pennsylvania colleges and universities to continue charting their path to success. Every Pennsylvanian deserves the freedom to chart their own course and the opportunity to succeed and these scholarships will help set our next generation of leaders on a path to success.”

“At America250PA, one of our goals has always been to engage and inspire young Pennsylvanians to become the leaders of tomorrow,” said **Cassandra Coleman, Executive Director of America250PA**. We’re proud to support these Semiquincentennial Scholars and look forward to the role they’ll play in shaping Pennsylvania’s future.”

The Semiquincentennial Scholarship Program is made possible through the generous support of **InterDigital**, **Mericle Commercial Real Estate**, and the **Luzerne Foundation**, along with Pennsylvania's colleges and universities whose matching commitments expand the program's impact for students across the Commonwealth.

To learn more about the Semiquincentennial Scholarship Program, visit https://america250pa.org/PPE:_Semiquin_Scholarships

###

About America250PA

The Pennsylvania Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial (America250PA) was established by the General Assembly and Governor in 2018 to plan, encourage, develop and coordinate the commemoration of the 250th Anniversary of the founding of the United States, Pennsylvania's integral role in that event, and the impact of its people on the nation's past, present, and future. The Commission is made up of current and past Pennsylvania leaders, celebrating the rich history and diversity of the state.

That shared history gives us context, pride, and perspective. America250PA is partnering with communities in all 67 counties so every Pennsylvanian can take part in this once-in-a-lifetime milestone and help shape what 2026 looks like across the Commonwealth. Our work is guided by four themes: Educate, Preserve, Innovate, and Celebrate.

For more information, visit <http://www.america250pa.org/>.