



2022 Governor's Achievement Awards Individual Award

We are pleased to announce that the PA Workforce Development Association (PWDA) and the PA Department of Labor & Industry will jointly present the Governor's Achievement Award for Individual Jobseekers during the 2022 Annual Conference. The conference is scheduled for May 4-6, 2022 and will be held at the Hershey Lodge in Hershey, PA.

An outstanding individual will be recognized in each of the following two categories:

- Adult
 - Youth
- (Including WIOA Title I, TANF Youth or Co-enrolled participants)

One adult and one youth award will be selected to be included in the awards ceremony which will be held on Thursday, May 5, 2021. Award winners will receive recognition in the conference program, a complimentary registration for the award lunch ceremony, and a commemorative etched glass award. Award recipients and their nominating organization also receive state, local and national publicity. Additional award ceremony luncheon tickets for non-conference attendees will be available for purchase.

To be considered for this award, signed, and completed nominations must be emailed to PWDA no later than **January 31, 2022** and must include the following completed information:

- Nomination Form completed and signed by a PWDA Board Member.
- One-page maximum (500 words or less) narrative describing how the nominee meets or exceeds the award criteria. You do not need to include any additional documentation unless requested.
- Consent Form signed by the nominee (job seeker) to allow the use of the nominee's information in the conference program and for promotional purposes.

Email the completed application materials by **January 31, 2022** to info@pawork.org.
Please put "Governor's Awards - Individual Nomination" in the subject line.

*For questions, please contact Brittani Potts, Member Services & Events Coordinator,
at bpotts@pawork.org.*

2022 Governor's Achievement Award INDIVIDUAL JOBSEEKER NOMINATION APPLICATION

Award Category (please select one category)

	Adult (any adult served – does not have to meet the WIOA adult definition)
	Youth (24 and under) Age: _____

Nominee Information

Nominee Name	
Email Address	
Phone Number	

Workforce Development Staff Who Supported Award Nominee

Name	
Email Address	
Phone Number	
Name	
Email Address	
Phone Number	

Nominating Workforce Development Board Information

Workforce Development Board	
PWDA Board Member	
PWDA Board Member Signature	
Contact Person (if different from board member)	
Title	
Email Address	
Phone Number	

Award Criteria

Please check off each of the following criteria:

	The nominee received assistance sometime between January 1, 2021 and December 31, 2021 . Nominations are not restricted to any particular workforce funding stream, but rather, should illustrate a notable success story about the impact of services provided by the workforce development system. Examples of integrated and innovative services involving multiple programs and funding sources are strongly encouraged. Please highlight staff guidance, training or other workforce programs and services that contributed directly to the individual's success in getting a good-paying job.
	The nominee put forth an extraordinary personal effort to use the resources provided through the workforce development system to achieve an employment and/or education goal.
	If an adult, the individual was successfully placed into employment at a sustainable family wage with benefits and has retained that employment for at least six months or if youth, attained an education goal or skills gain. Examples of the retooling of skills to qualify for in-demand jobs or the skills demanded by employers, placement into professional jobs, and placement into jobs with career pathways are encouraged.
	The individual's success story exemplifies the spirit of the workforce development system. It conveys the message that the "workforce system works." The story demonstrates that the workforce system is innovative and responsive.
	The nomination is submitted on time, and the application is complete.

**2022 Governor's Achievement Award
INDIVIDUAL (ADULT OR YOUTH) NOMINATION APPLICATION**

Nomination Narrative (500 words or less)

Please describe how the nominated individual's achievement exemplifies the success of the workforce system. Be sure to emphasize the individual effort, role of the workforce system and staff, milestones and program successes that make this nominee stand out. Note the ways in which the workforce development system guided this individual to a successful employment outcome. See pages 5-8 of this document for last year's winning nomination narratives. **Please do not exceed 500 words.**

2022 Governor's Achievement Award INDIVIDUAL (ADULT OR YOUTH) CONSENT FORM

Must be signed by the nominee.

I understand that my organization was nominated for a Governor's Achievement Award presented by the PA Department of Labor and Industry and the PA Workforce Development Association. The award ceremony will be held during PWDA's 38th Annual Conference on Wednesday, May 4, 2022.

By signing this form, I acknowledge that I will be contacted by PWDA or its production team regarding the award ceremony and I am aware that I have released information about myself and my company, which may be used for publicity purposes by the Governor's Office, PA Department of Labor & Industry, U.S. Department of Labor, and PA Workforce Development Association.

I hereby grant PWDA permission to use my likeness in a photograph, video, or other digital media in any and all of its publications, including web0based publications, without payment or other consideration. I understand and agree that all photos will become the property of PWDA and will not be returned.

I hereby irrevocably authorize the PWDA to edit, alter, copy, exhibit, publish, or distribute these photos for any lawful purpose. In addition, I waive any right to inspect or approve the finished product wherein my likeness appears. Additionally, I waive any right to royalties or other compensation arising or related to the use of the photo.

I hereby hold harmless, release, and forever discharge the PWDA from all claims, demands, and causes of action which I, my heirs, representatives, executors, administrators, or any other persons acting on my behalf or on behalf of my estate have or may have by reason of this authorization.

Name of Nominee	
Signature of Nominee	
Date	
Address	
City, State, Zip code	
Phone	
E-mail Address	
If youth, provide age:	
Nominating Board Member	
Organization	

A signed copy of this consent form must accompany the nomination.

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Quamir Lindsay

OSY Training Completed: Lineman with CDL A on 11/02/2020

When Quamir Lindsay enrolled in Lehigh Valley's Out of School Youth Program, he knew he wanted to pursue Lineman and CDL-A combination training. As a returning citizen and father of two girls, Quamir was challenged with balancing the program curriculum, co-parenting, and working as an Uber Driver. Determined to move forward, Quamir completed the You're Hired Employability Skills curriculum, completed assessments and pre-training requirements, and then enrolled in Northampton Community College's Lineworker Program with Class-A CDL Driver Training. Classes began in February 2020, and Quamir started the program with a full calendar.

Shortly after classes began, Quamir's car was unexpectedly totaled in a hit and run accident; this young parent now also faced transportation challenges. He was left with no way to get to school or his part-time job. With the help of his Career Advisor, he utilized bus passes to commute to and from school, and he was guided to the Compass website to apply for assistance.

When COVID-19 struck, many schools closed, including Northampton Community College where he was attending in-person training. During this time, Quamir was finally reimbursed by his car insurance company and was able to purchase a new car. Classes resumed in June 2020 and Quamir re-engaged with courses and returned to working as an Uber Driver to support his family.

During the summer months, there was an opportunity to have model participants tell their stories in conversations with legislators. Quamir was selected to speak to U.S. Senator Bob Casey (D-PA) in a virtual roundtable event in August 2020, where he shared his struggles and successes.

Quamir graduated on 11/02/2020 at the top of his class! He accepted a job offer from **Matrix NAC** through **The IBEW Local Union Hall 126** in Reading, PA. He is currently doing substation work as a First Step Lineman Apprentice. His long-term goal is to become a Journeyman Lineman since he loves the trade and has made many friends within his new group of co-workers.

Quamir is earning \$32.70 per hour – he could not wait to share this detail with his Career Advisor. Our participant stated he would always recommend the PA CareerLink® to family members and friends in the future. He shared that he will always be grateful to the program and staff for providing the chance to “give his daughters a better life!”

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According to Rich Lynham, growing up in "southie", Boston's working-class Irish community, often required him to fight his way back home at night. At the early age of 12, his behavior and drug use had prompted his parents to file a Child in Need of Services petition requesting he be placed in a juvenile care facility (from which he later escaped).

At age 16, Rich hit the road as drum tech for a local rock band, which led him deeper into a culture of drugs and violence. Within a few years, he was traveling the country as a rigger for bands including Bon Jovi, Aerosmith, and the Rolling Stones. At age 23, he came off tour and served 5 ½ years in prison on a felony conviction. Rich's hardcore lifestyle resulted in a critical automobile accident, a fall from a stage roof, and an addiction to the opioid pain medications he was prescribed. Although Rich's life had been spiraling out of control for years, it took becoming homeless on the streets of Pittsburgh for him to seek treatment.

Despite a few relapses, Rich finally took control of his addiction in 2017 with the help of Light of Life Rescue Mission, Cove Forge Rehabilitation Center, and a series of halfway and three-quarter houses. He began working part time while staying at Gateway Rehabilitation Center's Moffet House in Beaver Falls, PA. A presentation by one of Gateway's Certified Recovery Specialist motivated Rich to want to use his own addiction and recovery experience to help other individuals in recovery. He also learned about Penn State Beaver's Certified Recovery Specialist (CRS) training program and Opioid grant funding available through Job Training for Beaver County, Inc. (JTBC) to cover the cost.

Rich was referred to PA CareerLink Beaver County where he met with a JTBC case manager. His case manager coordinated his enrollment into Penn State's CRS program and referred him to OVR for additional support. Rich successfully completed the CRS program and obtained his CRS certification in December. He then continued to work with JTBC's case manager and job search specialist to develop a resume, practice interviewing skills, and increase his computer skills. Rich's OVR counselor told him about a CRS position at Resources for Human Development (RHD), a local drug and alcohol addiction treatment center. Rich applied for the position and worked with JTBC to develop a short-term on-the-job training (OJT) opportunity to help him successfully transition into his new career.

Rich now works full time at RHD and is regarded as a favorite among residents and staff. His co-workers nominated him for a Values Day 2020 award "as an extraordinary professional whose dedication makes a tremendous difference and favorably impacts the lives of the people he supports." Rich will reach his 3-years in recovery date next month and strongly believes in the power of "one addict helping another". He is excited about the opportunity to refer individuals in recovery to the services he received through JTBC, PA CareerLink Beaver County, and OVR.

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Upon meeting Ivy Blanchard in the Spring of 2020 when she contacted the Pa CareerLink© Mercer County for assistance with training funds to help with an RN program, you begin to realize that she could be defined as an inspiring person of strength and determination amidst a unique situation. At the age of 18 years old, end of her junior year in high school Ivy's mother passed away after battling some difficult medical conditions. Ivy is the eldest out of five total children in the family household with two (2) sisters and (2) brothers. With her mother gone and her father not in the picture, Ivy unselfishly stepped up and accepted, and was granted full guardianship, of all four siblings so they could remain as a family in the same household. Even with this unsurmountable responsibility, Ivy successfully graduated HS and began her academic studies in the fall of the same year at Penn State University Shenango working on pre-requisites to become a Registered Nurse.

Ivy has proven her dedication with consistent academic accomplishments. She has been recognized on the Dean's List at PSU every semester, successfully completing all pre-requisite classes to then make application and receive acceptance into the Sharon Regional School of Nursing in December of 2019. As of January 2020, she has been a full-time nursing student. During the initial portion of her nurse training, Ivy was still working part time on weekends at a local, family owned establishment as a Server and Front House Supervisor up until this past fall of 2020.

Ivy has been a WIOA In School Youth participant since the spring of 2020 through the WIOA Title 1 program and was awarded an Individualized Training Account. With ongoing case management, we have been able to help Ivy through and with her training activities. Ivy has received additional scholarships as recognition of her efforts and hard work with Penn State Shenango campus and The Buhl Foundation. During the summer of 2020, she was the recipient of "Safety Hero of The Month" for utilization of exemplary precautionary measures with a patient going into surgery @ Sharon Regional Hospital where she is engaged in practicum observations and hands-on training.

Goals which have been discussed and for which Ivy has already been working towards are for admission in Fall of 2021 to the BSN program with Penn State University Shenango campus. Her long-term goal is to obtain a master's in nursing with specialization Emergency Room/ Trauma Care.

In Ivy's words, "*Minutes before saying my finally goodbye to my mother, a nurse had walked into the hospital room. The nurse explained in the most nurturing way what all was soon to come. In that moment, I felt a sense of comfort and peace; she had left a deep impression on me. The nurse I had encountered that day truly inspired me to pursue a career as a nurse.*" And so, she is with support from West Central Job Partnership and the Pa CareerLink© Mercer County,

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Cindy Weidler had a very difficult start in life. As a child, she witnessed physical abuse between her parents, which left lasting effects on her as an adult. After graduating high school, Cindy went on to pursue a teaching degree and received a bachelor in Art Education in 1987. Cindy then married her 1st husband in 1989 and later had 6 children with him. She worked as a substitute teacher, making about \$11,000 a year but was unable to secure a full time teaching job. She says that during this marriage she suffered mental and emotional abuse which eventually led to a deep depression. She began attending church and eventually found the courage to leave her abuser. She would later marry again in 2012. She said her happiness was short lived and before she knew it, she was in another abusive relationship that eventually turned physical. One day she said she had enough and packed all of her belongings and left. She lived with a family member and cleaned houses on the side to earn money as well as substituting. She searched for teaching jobs but mostly what she found were nursing jobs. She said that she realized that in order to be financially secure, she would need to pursue another degree. This led her to apply for the nursing program at Mansfield University. She was accepted then she went back to her abuser just 5 months later. She said he promised things would be better this time around. She said that within a short period of time, she was harassed into quitting the nursing program after 1 week of classes. She said the physical abuse got worse and the police were called on a couple different occasions. She finally got up the courage to leave for good. She left that marriage with \$25,000 in credit card debt and spent close to two months in a shelter for homeless battered women. While in the shelter she was able to qualify for low income housing, and started applying for grants to help her pursue her LPN. After being referred by Penn College, she enrolled in the WIOA Adult program in July 2019. She started the LPN program in October then and was able to secure the funding to pay for the program. She successfully completed the LPN program in January of 2020, earning a credential. With the support of Trehab staff, she was able to gain family sustaining employment. Since leaving her second abusive relationship, she was able to completely pay off \$25,000 in debt. She then went on to purchase her very own home and shortly after that, was accepted into a LPN to RN bridge program in the fall of 2020 at Penn College. Cindy believes that without the help from her church, and the assistance and guidance she received from Trehab, she would not be where she is today. Cindy says " I am no longer a terrified mouse but rather an eagle that can weather any storm." Cindy is currently working as an LPN at UPMC.