



Student Financial Services Office
118 Russell Hall
Lock Haven, PA 17745
570-484-2344

August 13, 2009

Dear Student:

This letter contains very important information about your Pennsylvania State Grant.

As you may know, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has not yet approved a budget for 2009-2010. To keep basic state services operating, an interim budget was enacted last week. Unfortunately, that budget bill did not include funding for the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA). This means that, until a final budget is passed, PHEAA is unable to fund the 2009-2010 State Grants that have been awarded to undergraduate students.

With the beginning of the fall semester only weeks away, you and other Pennsylvania students who expect to receive State Grants may be understandably concerned about how you will pay for your college expenses in the absence of these funds. Rest assured that Lock Haven University (LHU) understands your dilemma and is prepared to assist you.

Because LHU is confident that a state budget will be passed in the coming months and that you will ultimately receive most, if not all, of your State Grant award, the university has come up with a plan to assist you while you await the disbursement of your grant. LHU is pleased to announce that we will fund in advance your fall State Grant award, minus \$150. This adjusted grant amount will be used to calculate the amount of any refund to which you are entitled for fall term from all resources. In other words, any anticipated refund will not be reduced by the full amount of your fall State Grant; instead, you will receive your normal refund amount, minus \$150.

For example:

If your fall semester State Grant award is \$1277, LHU will fund \$1,127 (i.e. \$1,277 - \$150) and will use that amount to determine the amount of refund for which you qualify.

Shortly after the state budget is passed and PHEAA receives its funding, your actual fall term State Grant will be credited to your LHU student account. Please note that there is a possibility that the funding PHEAA receives from the state will be slightly less than anticipated. As a result, PHEAA may need to reduce your 2009-2010 State Grant award. You may wonder why the university is reducing student refunds to State Grant recipients by \$150. The reason is that, should PHEAA have to reduce State Grant awards, students will owe little, if anything, to LHU as a result of that reduction.

Participation in LHU's "early refund" plan for State Grants requires no action on your part. The university will automatically process any refund to which you are entitled, defer payment of your actual State Grant, and assess no late fee, as long as your financial aid is in order and your student account balance is otherwise covered. The process of notifying students of refunds via their LHU email accounts has not changed. **If you are entitled to a refund, you will receive an email message 5 business days before the refund is issued please check your email before contacting our office.**

The early refund of State Grant funds is applicable to the Fall 2009 semester only. **Additional information, including answers to Frequently Asked Questions, is available via the Student Financial Services website (www.lhup.edu/financial-services) and PHEAA's website (www.pheaa.org).**

If you have questions or concerns, the Student Financial Services (SFS) will be happy to assist you. Please contact the office at (570) 484-2344 or email us at sfs@lhup.edu. The office is open to the public from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm weekdays. In addition, Student Financial Services will have special office hours on Saturday, August 29, from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm. SFS will be unable to take phone calls on Saturday, but you are welcome to visit the office for personal assistance.

Best wishes as you begin the academic year. The faculty and staff of Lock Haven University look forward to seeing you and to helping you reach your educational goals.

Sincerely,

Dr. James Theeuwes
Director of Student Financial Services