



Pennsylvania National Guard Associations
Building 9-109 Biddle Hall
Fort Indiantown Gap
Annville, PA 17003-5002
www.PNGAS.org

For Immediate Release

31 HIGH SCHOOLS NAMED A PNGAS GUARD-FRIENDLY HIGH SCHOOL

The Pennsylvania National Guard Associations (PNGAS) is a non-profit organization whose sole mission is supporting the men, women and veterans of the National Guard, their spouses, and families

(Fort Indiantown Gap - Annville, PA) – December 21, 2020 –The Pennsylvania National Guard Associations (PNGAS) is pleased to announce 31 High Schools have earned the designation PNGAS Guard Friendly High School. The designation and standards were developed by the PNGAS Education Advisory Council to amplify high school best practices for recruiting, information-sharing, and group-formation in high schools for their support of the Pennsylvania National Guard.

The PNGAS Education Action Council is chaired by Brigadier General George Schwartz (Ret.). Through his leadership, volunteers from some of the state's leading colleges and universities voluntarily review applications, guidelines, best practices, and improvement criteria.

For many years, the Education Assistance Program ("EAP") has been the number #1 recruiting tool for the Pennsylvania National Guard. Since its inception, Pennsylvania has distributed more than \$300 million through the EAP so Guard members can get college, university, and trade school degrees. The EAP provides a tuition benefit equivalent to the yearly tuition rate set by the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) so that members of the Pennsylvania National Guard can attend one of 488 Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) approved schools. Presently, the EAP is an almost \$32,000 tuition benefit for each Guard member.

With the July 2019 enactment of the Military Family Education Program (MFEP), there is a now a non-lapsing fund providing EAP-like tuition benefits to spouses and children of members of the Pennsylvania National Guard when a Guard member re-enlists for an additional 6-year term. Like the EAP, the MFEP is an almost \$32,000 tuition benefit for spouses and/or children of a Guard member that reenlists for an additional 6-year term.

As state and national emergencies and global warfare become increasingly sophisticated, technology-driven, and complex; having a well-trained, and educated Guard force is more strategic and valuable than ever.

"We are very confident the designation, PNGAS Guard-Friendly High School, will produce immediate and long-term benefits and synergies for students, faculty, alumni, Guard-members, veterans, their spouses, families, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and its economy," added Kathleen Fabrizi, Executive Director, PNGAS and Pennsylvania National Guard Foundation. "We're grateful so many high schools are responding to the best practices we are amplifying."



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PNGAS is a non-profit organization, not associated with or legally connected to the Pennsylvania National Guard, the state or federal government, the US Military or the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

Contact Information:

Kathleen Fabrizi, Executive Director, PNGAS
Biddle Hall Building, 9-109 Fort Indiantown Gap
Annville, PA 17003-5002
Mobile; 215-514-5947, Email: PNGAS@PNGAS.org
www.PNGAS.org

The List:

**High Schools earning the designation,
PNGAS Guard Friendly High School
as of December 15, 2020**

**Big Spring High School
Bucktail High School
Carbondale Area Jr-Sr HS
Central MontCo Technical High School
Central Mountain High School
Commonwealth Charter Academy Charter School
Conestoga Valley High School
Cumberland Perry Area Vocational Technical School
Frankford High School
Governor Mifflin High School
Greater Johnstown Career & Technology Center
Halifax Area High School
Harry S Truman High School
Indiana County Technology Center
Lake-Lehman High School
Lebanon High School
Martin Luther King High School
Morrisville High School
Norristown Area High School
Owen J. Roberts High School
Parkland High School
Riverside High School
Phoenixville Area High School
Radnor High School
Red Lion Area Senior High School
Spring Grove Area High School
Steelton Highspire High School
The Philadelphia Military Academy
Valley Forge Military Academy
West Mifflin Area High School
West Scranton High School**