



*Advocating the views of convenience stores, supermarkets,
independent grocers, wholesalers and consumer product vendors.*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PA Food Merchants Association awards 2020 DECA Scholarship to Emily Eckenrode

CAMP HILL, Pa. – (April 1, 2020): Downingtown STEM Academy Senior Emily Eckenrode was recently awarded a \$1,000 scholarship through the Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association and DECA, Inc.

Eckenrode will be attending West Virginia University in the fall and majoring in Hospitality and Tourism Management.

“Emily has achieved academic excellence and shown tremendous leadership through her involvement in various clubs, athletics, and activities,” PFMA President & CEO Alex Baloga said. “We look forward to watching Emily excel in her postsecondary educational career and wish her the best in her continuing studies.”

[DECA Inc.](#), a nonprofit student organization with more than 225,000 members across the globe, prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality and management in high schools and colleges around the globe.

Eckenrode is a senior captain of the Downingtown West Swim & Dive team and an officer in the Downingtown STEM National Honor Society chapter. She has been a member of the Downingtown STEM DECA chapter since her sophomore year and the STEM student council for three years.

With her partner Justin Lischuk, Emily placed first in the Hospitality Services Team Decision Making competition her junior and senior years.

At Downingtown STEM Academy, Emily is enrolled in the International Baccalaureate program, where she takes high-level Economics, Literature, and Design Technology and standard level Physics, Mathematics, and Spanish. She is the co-founder and president of the Academy’s woodworking club where she is currently building her own electric guitar.

She has worked part-time at Kids First Swim School since her freshman year and teaches adults and children how to swim and improve their techniques.

About PFMA

The Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association, a statewide trade association, advocates the views of nearly 800 convenience stores, supermarkets, independent grocers, wholesalers and consumer product vendors. PFMA members operate more than 3,500 stores and employ more than 200,000 Pennsylvanians. For more information on PFMA, visit www.pfma.org.

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