



## HEMPFIELD FOUNDATION

200 Church Street  
Landisville, PA 17538  
hempfieldfoundation@gmail.com

# The Gerke Skilled Trades and Technical Career Scholarship

**Scholarship Purpose:** The purpose of this scholarship is to support graduating Hempfield High School seniors who plan to pursue postsecondary education or training in skilled trades, technical workforce fields, or applied career pathways that lead directly to high-demand careers. This scholarship reflects the Gerke family's belief in the dignity of work, the importance of technical skill development, and the value of career paths that contribute directly to industry, transportation, construction, manufacturing, energy, agriculture, public safety, and essential services.

**About the Gerke Family:** Darrell Gerke, former part-owner of Conestoga Tours, has long valued the essential role skilled trades professionals play in keeping industries, transportation systems, and communities operating safely and efficiently. Together, Darrell and his late wife Barbara Gerke have supported education in multiple forms, from literacy and learning to workforce readiness. This scholarship honors that commitment by supporting students who are ready to build practical skills and contribute meaningfully to the workforce.

**Annual Scholarship Amount to Be Awarded:** \$5,000

**Eligible Career Pathways:** Students pursuing postsecondary education, certification, apprenticeship, or technical training in fields such as the following are encouraged to apply:

### **Skilled Trades**

Electrician  
Plumber  
Carpenter  
Welder or Fabricator  
HVAC Technician  
Automotive Technician  
Diesel Technician  
Mason  
Roofer  
Heavy Equipment  
Operator

### **Technical and Industrial Fields**

Industrial Maintenance  
CNC Machinist  
Robotics Technician  
Electrical Technology  
Construction Technology  
Manufacturing Technology  
Transportation Technology  
Energy Technology  
Agricultural Technology

### **Applied Workforce and Essential Services**

Commercial Driver's  
License (CDL)  
Electrical Utility Programs  
Aviation Technology  
Wind or Solar Energy  
Technician  
EMT  
Firefighter  
Public Safety or Protective  
Services

Students pursuing associate degrees, certifications, apprenticeships, or industry-recognized training programs in related technical or workforce-aligned fields are also eligible.



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### **Key Recipient Criteria:** The recipient must:

- Plan to enroll in at least a two-year associate degree program, technical institute, apprenticeship, or industry-recognized certification program
- Maintain a minimum 2.5 GPA
- Submit a short essay (500 words or less) describing:
  - Why they are pursuing a skilled or technical career pathway
  - How they hope to contribute to their field or community through their work
- Provide at least one letter of recommendation from a teacher, employer, co-op supervisor, or technical instructor

Preference may be given to students who have participated in Career and Technical Education (CTE), co-op programs, internships, work-based learning, or hands-on technical coursework.

**Use of Scholarship Funds:** The scholarship may be used for tuition, tools, equipment, certifications, safety gear, books/materials, transportation costs, or other expenses directly related to the recipient's education or training program.

***A PDF of the completed application for this scholarship must be emailed to the Hempfield Foundation at [hempfieldfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:hempfieldfoundation@gmail.com) by March 27, 2026. If you choose to do the optional video, please include a link/attachment when you submit your PDF of the written application. Thank you!***



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## Application

Applicant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Postsecondary Institution or Training Program: \_\_\_\_\_

Program or Career Pathway Being Pursued: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Program (check one):

- Associate Degree
- Technical Certification
- Apprenticeship
- Industry-Recognized Training Program

List any Career and Technical Education courses, co-op placements, internships, or technical coursework completed in grades 9–12 (attach additional page if needed):

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Grade Point Average: \_\_\_\_\_

Attach the following:

- 500-word essay
- Letter of recommendation
- Any supporting documentation of program acceptance (if available)

The above information is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Applicant's Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_