



**Ken
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*Owner of Slate
Belt Energy
Services*

Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times

What Does the Future Hold

Whether it is obvious to the consumer or not, there is a lack of qualified workers in several fields today. Employers in each trade who suffer from this problem are finding ways to get around it without closing up shop or losing money. There is a limit to what a repair technician can get paid. An electrician or heating tech who is well versed in their craft and has troubleshooting skills can write their own ticket today. But where can one go to get this training? Trade schools are great and can help someone with aptitude for a trade to get up to speed rapidly. Not everyone has that aptitude and it's best for those people to realize it and just find something better suited to their skill set. There was a school for oil heating system repair and installation in Allentown many years ago and the classes were taught by service managers from several local companies. It may have been the best training I ever received. It was 3 hours a night for 2 nights a week and it was 120 total hours. I don't know what year it closed but I went in 1979. My sons also attended so it definitely didn't close until after 2005. That is almost 20 years ago but the knowledge they imparted on my sons and me is still as valid as the day we learned it. Occasionally manufacturers will give a short class at one of the local supply houses but they are more sales oriented than actual training. At the end of the day, the best training available would come from an expert in the field. That person is probably over 50 and most would gladly teach someone if that person was trainable and could handle the rigors of working with someone who is set in their ways. Typically interns get paid in education and not money but that isn't too practical today with the cost of living. Oil systems are the ones today that are short of experts. Many oil companies used to have fuel and service but most do not anymore so there is no more in-house training. Where is this all headed? I wish I knew but it doesn't seem to be getting better. We need some people ready to get dirty and learn some of the important skills that are not glamorous or we will all be in trouble one day. The trades are solid careers for talented people. We can't all be rock stars. If you heard me sing you'd know right away why I fix oil burners.

Ken Field is the owner of Slate Belt Energy and Field's Service, Inc. As a certified energy rater and contractor, he is qualified to assess every aspect of energy usage and prescribe solutions to save energy. He can be reached at 610-759-6306 or email Ken@FieldsService.com

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Scholarship Guidelines and Application

I. General Overview

Slate Belt Rising (SBR) may at its discretion, award scholarship grants (\$1000) on behalf of individuals (paid directly to qualified educational institutions or for the purchase of tools), which grants may be used exclusively for tuition at post-secondary educational institutions that normally maintain a regular faculty and curriculum, and for fees, books, supplies, and equipment required for courses at such institutions, for room and board expenses payable to the institution, or the purchase of tools for a student entering the workforce in a trade. Scholarship grants will usually be administered through scholarship funds as allocated through the Slate Belt Rising Neighborhood Partnership Program. The Slate Belt, Rising Community Engagement Committee, will approve all scholarship programs established by such Scholarship Funds in advance of any solicitation of applications. The Steering Committee will make the ultimate decision regarding scholarship award distributions. Grants will be awarded for one year.

II. Scholarship Selection Process

A. Criteria for Selection

The Committee will develop appropriate scholarship purposes and criteria. The Committee will review the proposed purposes of each scholarship to ensure that such purposes are consistent with the Slate Belt Rising's charitable purposes and its mission. The Committee shall review and shall have final approval authority over the adopted criteria for each scholarship.

The scholarship criteria must be "objective and nondiscriminatory." The selection criteria must also be reasonably related to the purposes of the scholarship. Criteria may include, but need not be limited to: prior academic performance, performance on tests designed to measure ability and aptitude for college work, recommendations from instructors, financial need, and the conclusions that the selection committee might draw from a personal interview or written statement as to the individual's motivation, character, ability, and potential.

All scholarship applicants shall submit an application, which shall include a biographical record and supporting material, including letters of recommendation, grade transcripts, and special awards. The Committee will develop the scholarship application form for each scholarship. The Committee shall have ultimate approval authority over all application forms.

For more information and how to apply go to :
www.slatebeltrising.org

GREEN KNIGHT
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

GKEDC This Year The Scholarship

Bob Cornman President GKEDC

PEN ARGYL - The GKEDC has awarded approximately \$260,000 in scholarships to over 70 high school seniors. In 2023 all students who submitted applications were awarded \$4000.00 scholarships by the GKEDC. This year the scholarship amount is being increased from \$4000.00 to \$10,000.00. Any student who lives within the Pen Argyl School District and who will be continuing his/her education in a college program. GKEDC is currently accepting scholarship applications from February 1 through May 8th. All applications must be received by the GKEDC by May 8th.

Scholarship Information

1. The scholarships will be awarded to individuals who reflect the ideals of community service and environmental stewardship, and who are seeking higher education to further advance these ideals into their professional careers.
2. Any graduating high school senior who lives in the Pen Argyl School District and who will be continuing his/her education in a college program is eligible to receive this award.
3. The scholarship will be in the amount of \$10,000 to be distributed in four segments over the course of a four-year college program.
4. Scholarship applications are available on our website at www.GKEDC.org