

PSL's Grants and Scholarships

By: Madeline Infalvi

Perry Service Learning is not only a class here at Perry High School, but is also a program that offers endless opportunities for students to succeed and do good for their communities. PSL is a hands-on class, and every student is given an opportunity to organize a service project. Mrs. Trentanelli and Mr. Soeder run the class. PSL is able to give students scholarships, and provide grants for their projects. PSL is a great investment for students' future, and the well-being of the community.

Every year, some PSL students are chosen to receive scholarships. "We have some really great donors in the community who recognize the work that our students do and want to make sure that there are scholarships specifically tailored towards them," says Trentanelli. She explained that she and Mr. Soeder are not the ones who choose who receives scholarships. "We have a large number of Alumni who review their interview profiles and make the determinations from there," said Trentanelli. These give students the opportunity to receive money they need for college and their future. Trentanelli explained, "We know that our Seniors are really busy applying for scholarships, so we don't ask them to do an application. We use their interview profiles, which is work that they do every single week for us anyway. That interview ultimately becomes their scholarship application." Three scholarships that are given out each year are the Bound Angels scholarship, the Art Buser scholarship, and the PSL Alumni scholarship. The Bound Angels scholarship is two 1,000 dollar scholarships and are given in memory of two past PSL students who passed away. The Art Buser scholarship is 3,000 dollars, and was also created

out of memory of Art Buser who used to be the administrator at the Perry Center before his passing. The PSL Alumni scholarship is 1,000 and is also given every year.

PSL also receives and gives grants to students. This year PSL received a grant from Youth Service America. “We were rewarded \$19,500 to generate activities for young people to serve on the three national days of service,” says Soeder. The three national days of service are on September 11, Martin Luther King Jr day, and Global Youth Service Day which is in April. The grant allowed PSL to not only expand the work that they already do in the class, but they were also able to host a conference at Lakeland Community College for teachers from various schools to share their service learning activities and ideas. “That grant was cool because it not only improved the work that we do here, but it allowed us to share what we do with other schools,” said Soeder. PSL also gives grants to students for their service projects. “We don’t ever expect our students to fund their own projects, so we allow students to apply for grants through PSL,” Trentenalli explained. This way all PSL students are all able to create a service project for the community without having to worry about paying for it.

PSL is a great class for students to expand their impact on the community, and is able to give their students resources they need for their future. PSL is continuing to grow, and the grants and scholarships that are both given and received are a great bonus that help students and the community succeed.