

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **PFund Awards \$50,000 in LGBT leadership scholarships**

*18 student leaders from across Minnesota receive awards for community involvement*

MINNEAPOLIS (May 18, 2011) PFund, the only Minnesota foundation dedicated exclusively to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) equality, today announced it has awarded 18 high school students with more than \$50,000 in leadership scholarships. Recipients were selected based on leadership, activism and community involvement.

"This is an impressive group of student leaders," said Kate Eubank, executive director. "As out, proud LGBT students in their schools and communities, these students are shifting the climate for all students."

PFund received nearly 60 applications from students representing communities across the state of Minnesota. A volunteer review panel made award decisions based on applicants' commitment to advancing equality for LGBT communities and demonstrated leadership.

Scholarships range from \$2,000 to \$5,000 and will be awarded at the foundation's annual Moxie Awards celebration in the fall.

"A PFund scholarship is the green light for LGBT student leaders to take their activism to the next stage," says Lupe Castillo, PFund board president. "These scholarships are a symbol of the larger LGBT communities' support for student leadership."

The following students will receive PFund scholarships in 2011:

Meghan Babcock - Mankato  
Minnesota State University – Mankato Award (\$2,000)

Lisa Bean - Minneapolis  
Thomson Reuters Law Student Award (\$2,500)

Bory Chhunn - Rochester  
Holland-Federhart Outstanding Arts Award (\$2,000)  
Blue Earth Area Award (\$2,000)

Erin Hill - Rochester, Minn.  
Southeast Minnesota Award  
Reverend Obed "Duke" and Ruth E. Lundeen Social Justice Award (\$1,000)

Jason Jackson - Minneapolis  
Haynes-Hettinga African American or Native American Student Award (\$5,000)

Natalie Lassman - Saint Paul  
Carey-Taylor Music Performance Award (\$2,500)

Jini Lawless - Bemidji  
RBC Wealth Management Award (\$2,000)

Kacie Lucchini - Minneapolis  
Nancy T. Kelly Female Writer Award (\$2,000)

Hannah Lutz - Saint Paul  
Atheists for Human Rights Award (\$500)  
Dr. Tom Knabel Academic Achievement Award (\$3,000)

Heather Menzies - Apple Valley  
Gilligan-Pospisil Homelessness Award \$3,000

Hayley Olson - Duluth  
Meuwissen-Werb Leadership Award (\$2,000)

Elizabeth Sanberg - Minneapolis  
Lee Roehl Founders Scholarship Award presented by Quorum (\$2,500)

Hassan Sankoh - Saint Paul  
Marjorie D. Grevious and Lisa R. Robinson Leadership Award (\$1,000)  
All God's Children Metropolitan Community Church Award (\$1,000)

Lexi Schoenbauer - Minneapolis  
Manahan-Bohan Rural Lesbian Award (\$1,000)  
Brian Pietsch Leadership Award (\$1,000)

Enzi Tanner - Minneapolis  
Miriam Weinstein Peace and Justice Education Award (\$3,000)

Jacob Woods - Grand Rapids  
Wellness Award (\$1,000)  
Lutheran Award (\$2,000)

Xay Yang - Minneapolis  
Linde-Ostrander Building Bridges Award (\$5,000)

Full details and recipient biographies can be found at <http://pfundonline.org/scholarship-win.html>.

#### About PFund

PFund envisions a time when LGBT people experience the world as a place of safety and our media, policy makers, families and popular culture reject any form of violence against them; where LGBT people's human rights and dignity are unquestioned and they are free from discrimination and are celebrated and visible.

PFund Foundation is a community foundation that advances social justice for LGBT communities in the Upper Midwest by providing hands on assistance to organizations, funding systems change work, developing leaders, inspiring giving, and convening & reporting on issues of importance for our communities. Established in 1987 as Philanthrofund Foundation in Minneapolis when four friends pooled \$2,000, PFund is now supported by thousands of individuals in dozens of states who have created a vibrant and vital community foundation that celebrates and strengthens our communities. PFund is one of only a handful of foundations in the nation created specifically by and for LGBT communities. Today, PFund manages nearly \$1 million in assets, enjoying the support of committed donors and dedicated volunteers from LGBT and allied communities. More at [PFundOnline.org](http://PFundOnline.org).

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