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## Fayette Vo-Tech students challenged

By Daily Courier  
Tuesday, October 12, 2010

The Challenge Program Inc., a regional nonprofit organization designed to provide high school students with incentives for success, kicked off its program at the Fayette County Vocational-Technical School in Uniontown with an orientation assembly for students.

The program partners with local businesses to motivate high school students both in and out of the classroom. This partnership creates good habits in students and provides businesses with tangible results for their investments. Twelve students in the sophomore, junior and senior classes who excel in the areas of attendance, academic excellence, academic improvement and community service will receive an award in the amount of \$250 for their efforts. The amount of awards in each school totals \$3,000.

This year's orientation incorporated a baseball theme to challenge students to become academic "all-stars."

"The 'all-star' theme drives The Challenge Program Inc.'s motivational message home to students," said Mary Dreliszak, senior manager of program development for The Challenge Program Inc.

"To be stars in the game of life, students have to show up, take their performance to the next level, and always 'throw' something back to their community. We can't go through life with catcher's mitts on both hands," Dreliszak said.

W.R. Casteel Co., Argon ST and Shumar's Welding and Machine Services are sponsors of The Challenge Program awards at Fayette County Vo-Tech. Todd Casteel, president of W.R. Casteel Co., and Joe Kroeschel, human resource manager at Argon ST, addressed the students about the qualities W.R. Casteel Co. and Argon ST values in their employees.

Since 2003, through the generous support of businesses, foundations and individuals, The Challenge Program Inc. has been introduced to more than 200,000 students and checks totaling \$1.3 million have been presented to more than 5,200 high school students.

For more information, call Dreliszak or Barbara Grandinetti, executive director, The Challenge Program, at 814-533-7403.

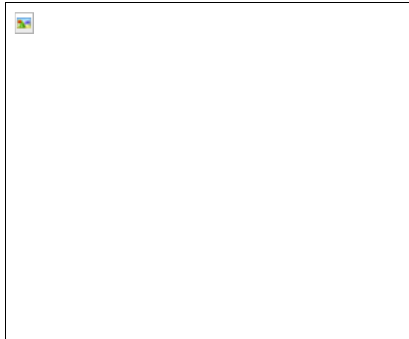
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