



THE CHALLENGE PROGRAM

U.S. Rep. John P. Murtha and some of the defense contractors serving as business ambassadors for The Challenge Program Inc. attended a recent orientation assembly at Bentworth High School. Front (from left) are Deborah Fox, BAE Systems; Shirley Sofranko, Trident Systems Inc.; David Rossi, Parametric Technology Corp.; Walt Kitonis, Progeny Systems; back, Bart Whitman, MTS Technologies; Dan Perkins, The Challenge Program Inc. and MTS Technologies Inc.; Lori Omatick, Advanced Acoustic Concepts; Ed Nichols, Trident Systems; Murtha; Ken Bryan, Planning Systems Inc.; Rick Hillyer, Planning Systems Inc.; and Eric Todd, Planning Systems Inc.

Business ambassadors help expand program

FOR THE DAILY COURIER

Fayette County defense contractors were among those who recently joined U.S. Rep. John P. Murtha at Bentworth High School to help begin expansion of The Challenge Program Inc. into Washington County.

Serving as business ambassadors for the program, Fayette County defense contractors were among the businesses that helped to contribute \$28,000 to The Challenge Program Inc. to motivate and reward Fayette County high school students during the 2006-07 school year.

The Challenge Program Inc. partners with local businesses to educate students on entrepreneurship while motivating them to excel in the classroom and in their communities. Sophomore, junior and senior high school students who excel in the areas of most improved academically, best attendance, community service and best overall grade-point average will receive an award

in the amount of \$250 for his or her efforts. A total of 12 awards are earned at each high school.

Fayette County business ambassadors and their schools are Albert Gallatin High School with Parametric Technology Corp. and Planning Systems Inc.; Brownsville High School with Lou Brown; Connellsville Area High School with Armstrong; Frazier High School with Blaney Farms; Geibel Catholic High School with Trident Systems and PTC; Fayette County Area Career and Technology Center with Shumar's Welding and Machine Services and Argon ST; Laurel Highlands High School with Advanced Acoustic Concepts; and Uniontown High School with BAE Systems and Trident Systems.

For more information on the program, call Mary Dreliszak, manager of program development, at 724-984-0860, or Barbara Grandinetti, executive director, The Challenge Program Inc., at 814-533-7403.