

Challenge Program motivates AAHS students to perform well

The Challenge Program was developed in Cambria County to motivate students to perform well in school and to build a bridge between high school students and the business community.

Challenge Program officials contacted the AASD Foundation in the summer of 2005 to help get this effort started in Altoona Area High School and in the rest of Blair County.

Barbara Grandinetti, executive director, said, "The Challenge Program would like to put a stop to the exodus of our young people and eliminate the "brain drain" in the area. With the support of local business and political leaders, we can provide our young people with evidence that Central Pennsylvania is full of great career opportunities."

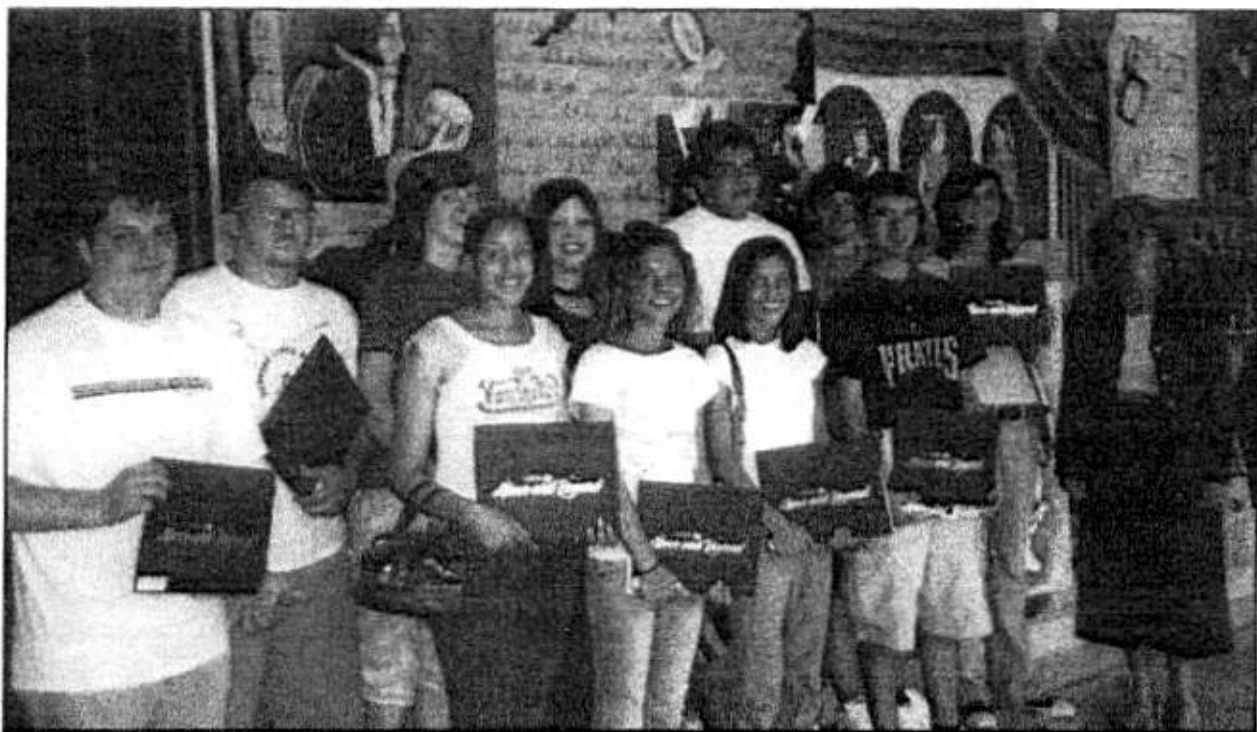
An important part of the program is designed to encourage sophomores, juniors and seniors to perform well in four different categories: Most

improved, best attendance, most community service and best overall grade point average.

Thanks to a \$1,500 donation from the AASD Foundation, which was matched by the Blair Companies,

\$250 checks were presented to the 12 winning students in each category on June 1.

The program is being continued during the 2006-2007 school year.



These Altoona Area High School sophomores, juniors and seniors won the first Challenge Awards in June. Barbara Weakland (right) represented the Blair Companies, which co-sponsored the awards with the AASD Foundation.