

EDUCATION

Student believes in volunteering

Cambria Heights graduate Carly Deibler believes that The Challenge Program helps to make students more aware about the decisions they make during the school year.

"This (program) encourages students to try harder and to be more involved than they normally would be," she says.

Deibler is a two-time Challenge Program award winner for Most Community Service. She currently is a freshman at the Pitt studying chemical engineering.

During her time at Cambria Heights, Deibler was not unlike most high-school students: She carried a full course load, had a job and was involved with several student organizations and sports teams.

Still, Deibler found time to dedicate many hours to service projects within her community, including road cleanup, bloodmobiles for the American Red Cross, career fairs and Saturday with Santa, a holiday-themed activity held annually at Cambria Heights Elementary School.



THE CHALLENGE PROGRAM

Kayla Washko

She also was a volunteer for the elementary school's Learning for Life program, which aims to teach life lessons to third graders.

For Deibler, volunteering never was about the potential to be recognized, but rather the chance to be involved and to make a difference.

Still, she says that The Challenge Program's cash incentives are a big motivator for high-school students and that, for her, it was an added bonus to be rewarded for

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CARLY DEIBLER, CHALLENGE PROGRAM AWARD WINNER

her work with the community.

Deibler stresses that volunteering not only makes a difference in getting into college; it also can be a lot of fun.

"If a few students that are friends get together to volunteer, they will have a lot more fun than they think. I know that having friends there to talk to and help out made it a lot of fun."

She also emphasizes the need for students to give back to their high schools.

"There are so many things that teachers, counselors, coaches and staff do for the students in the course of a day," she says. "This showed me that I needed to do something, too. I needed to put things back into my high school to help make it grow. Many people never realize this in high school, which is a shame."

This article is part of a human interest series that will feature past recipients of The Challenge Program's four award categories: Most Improved, Best GPA, Most Community Service and Best Attendance. The Challenge Program is a nonprofit organization located in Johnstown that provides financial incentives to students for successes they achieve while still in high school. The Challenge Program also aims to provide a bridge between high-school students and the local business community.