

Assembly held about incentive program

CONNELLSVILLE — The Challenge Program Inc., a regional nonprofit organization, which provides high school students with incentives for success, recently held an orientation assembly at the Connellsville Career and Technology Center to kick off the program for the 2007-08 school year.

According to officials, the program partners with local businesses to educate students on local career opportunities while also motivate them to excel in the classroom and in their communities.

Sophomore, junior and senior class students who excel in the following areas: most improved academically; best attendance; community service; and best overall grade point average (GPA) will receive an award in the amount of \$250 for his or her efforts.

Officials said that the total amount of awards in each school totals \$3,000.

According to officials, Nemaacolin Woodlands Resort is serving as the business ambassador to sponsor the cash awards for

the Connellsville Career and Technology Center.

Addressing the student assembly were Mary Dreliszak, senior manager of program development for The Challenge Programs; and Nemaacolin Woodland Resort executives, Wanda Anker, director of community programs and Judy Caulfield, director of recruiting.

"We are excited about the opportunity to work with schools and businesses in Fayette County to motivate and reward students," said Dan Perkins, founder of The Challenge Program Inc., and president and chief executive director of MTS Technologies in Johnstown.

"The program makes a positive impact. Grades and attendance have improved in participating schools and students have had the opportunity to gain an understanding of local businesses and employment opportunities," said Perkins.

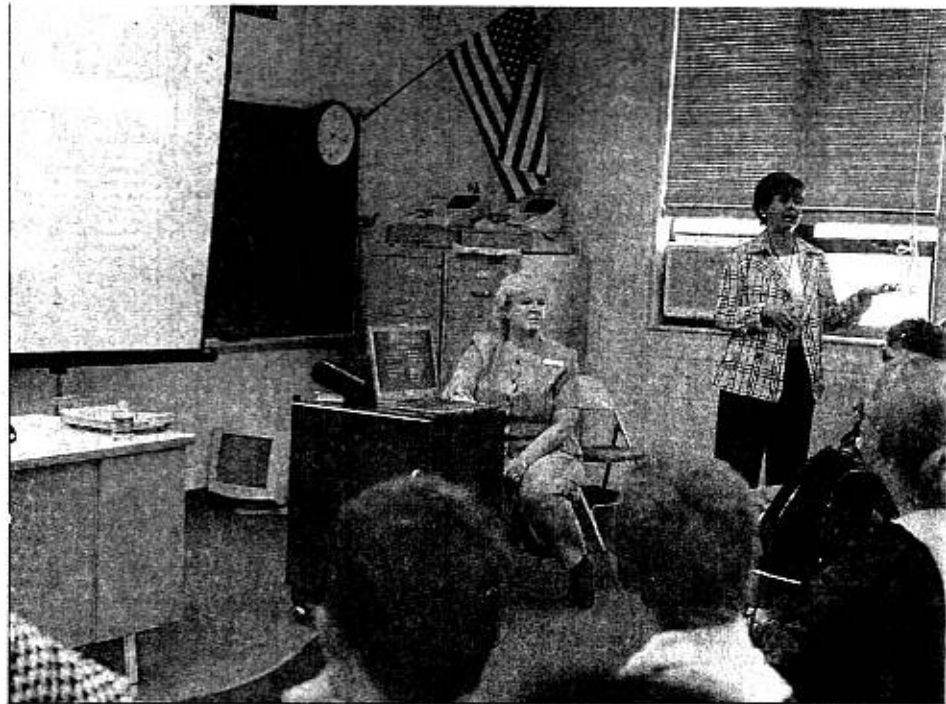
According to officials, since 2003 through the generous support of businesses, foundations and individuals, The Challenge

Program Inc. has been introduced to more than 100,000 students and checks totaling \$355,000 have been presented to 1,500 high school students.

TeleTech and Planning Systems Inc. have agreed to be the ambassador to Albert Gallatin High School.

Other ambassadors include: Lou Brown, Brownsville Area High School; Armstrong and BAE Systems, Connellsville Area High School; Nemaacolin Woodlands Resort & Spa, Connellsville Area Career and Technical Center; Argon ST and Shumar's Welding and Machine Service, Fayette County Career and Technology Center; Blaney Farms and Images Time Inc., Frazier High School; Trident Systems Inc., Geibel Catholic Middle-High School; Advanced Acoustic Concepts, Laurel Highlands High School; Idlewild Park, Mount Pleasant High School; and BAE Systems Inc., Uniontown School.

For additional information call Dreliszak at 724-984-0860 or Barbara Grandinetti, executive director, The Challenge Program at 814-533-7403.



ED COPE/Herald-Standard

Wanda Anker (right), director of community programs and Judy Caulfield (left), director of recruiting, present an assembly at Connellsville Career and Technology Center.