

EDUCATION

The Challenge Program's message is spreading across Pennsylvania

it news:

sure news from your community is included in a future issue of "Business Weekly," please send it to business writer Shawn Piatek at spiatek@tribdem.com, or by fax (724) 532-5060.

Want to suggest a story? Please call (724) 532-5060.

editor:

For looking through this edition of "Business Weekly" - a new publication produced by the staff of The Tribune-

Democrat "Business Weekly" now provides the most complete source of business news in the region.

This issue is chock full of business news, analysis and commentary, and loaded with information from businesses across the region. You'll see items of interest from business organizations, universities and professionals.

Special features news you can use - including training sessions, agency listings, press releases and reports on new business and technology.

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The first marking period in local high schools has just ended, and that means things are finally starting to settle down at The Challenge Program.

The fall season is especially busy for us because it is when representatives from the program travel to participating high schools to hold orientation assemblies.

These assemblies introduce The Challenge Program to students and also provide them with an opportunity to meet the business ambassador who will fund their awards.

So far this year, representatives from The Challenge Program have visited nearly 80 schools. An additional 20 visits are planned during the next few weeks.

We are proud to announce that this year's list of participating schools includes schools from both sides of the state of Pennsylvania.

The program was presented to students at Peabody High School in Allegheny County in early October. In November, the program will reach the Philadelphia area when it is presented to students at Academy Park High School in Sharon Hill.

"We are thrilled that The Challenge Program's message is being spread throughout the state," said Barbara Grandinetti, executive director of The Challenge Program.

"Our eventual goal is to offer the program in every county in Pennsylvania, and these additions bring us closer to that goal."

Because The Challenge Program is a



THE CHALLENGE PROGRAM

Kayla Washko

nonprofit organization, its rapid expansion also means that additional money needs to be raised to fund the schools and operations.

Each new participating school calls for a minimum of \$3,000 to be raised, which goes directly to the students at the end of the school year. In addition, operating costs for The Challenge Program must be raised.

The Challenge Program is grateful for the support of nearly 60 businesses across the state of Pennsylvania, as well as the support of the Armstrong, Greene, Somerset and Cambria county commissioners, who provide funding for the program.

We also have been fortunate enough to receive several foundation grants and fundraising events, including a three-year grant from the Benedum Foundation, based in Pittsburgh, to fund our staffing in Intermediate Unit 1 (Greene, Fayette

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**BARBARA GRANDINETTI,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
CHALLENGE PROGRAM**

and Washington counties).

As part of our efforts to keep the message of The Challenge Program alive in schools all year, the program has developed marketing materials, such as banners, posters and a rap video to be played throughout the year.

To view the rap video, or to learn more about The Challenge Program, please visit our Web site at www.thechallenge-program.org.

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.