

Success story

Sheetz executive discusses company's history



Sheetz

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Megan Fabbri, a junior at Penn Cambria High School, is one of countless people who visit their neighborhood Sheetz store and wonder how it came into being.

On Thursday night, Fabbri - who is participating in the Challenge Program, founded by a Johnstown businessman to promote student success, learned how Sheetz got its start from Stephen Sheetz, chairman of the board.

Sheetz was the guest speaker in "Torchbearers: Regional Success Stories," a lecture series that highlights success stories in the region and raises money for the Challenge Program.

Nearly 200 people attended the event, sponsored by the Greater Johnstown-Cambria County Cham-

ber of Commerce and held at the Pasquerilla Conference Center. Sheetz told the crowd that the mainly family owned business had plenty of support from its bank and suppliers as it grew and that members of the family worked hard and never gave up. He said their employees, who are part-owners, also play a big part by

developing the culture at Altoona-based Sheetz.

He said the biggest lesson he learned in his career is that, to be successful, everyone needs at least one mentor.

"I got into trouble when I thought I knew it all," he said, adding that when he sought the advice of others, the difficult times started to fade.

Don Zucco, former Johnstown mayor and a previous Torchbearer speaker, said Sheetz' message was excellent.

"I especially liked the message about mentors," he said, adding that both he and Dan Perkins, founder of the Challenge Program and another Torchbearer speaker, also spoke about the importance of having a mentor.