

# High schoolers up to Challenge

## Caesar Rodney rewards students for aiming high

By Nora Engel  
Delaware State News

CAMDEN — Students at Caesar Rodney High School who worked hard in the classroom and the community were given the chance to earn a cash reward this year.

The high school introduced the Challenge Program to students to motivate them to succeed and achieve while in high school and beyond. Caesar Rodney is one of only two Delaware schools involved in the program.

"The Challenge Program encourages students in four categories: most improved, best attendance, highest grade

point average, and community service," said principal Elvina Knight.

"This was our first experience with this program and it was a great thing."

An awards ceremony was held Thursday morning at the high school.

Dover Federal Credit Union sponsored the program and provided a cash prize of \$250 to one freshman and one sophomore in each category.

Mrs. Knight said the program might open up to juniors and seniors next year.

Deborah Jacobs, a 1983 CR alumnus and guest speaker at the ceremony, stressed the importance of hard work and dedication to the students.

"The Challenge Program is designed to build a bridge between students and business-  
es," she said.

"When you get in the business world, you are also rewarded for your performance. If you are that employee that does a good job, you are rewarded with a bonus check."

Elisabeth Wilson, 16, of Dover, won highest grade point average for the sophomore class.

"I always try my best because that is what I expect of myself," she said.

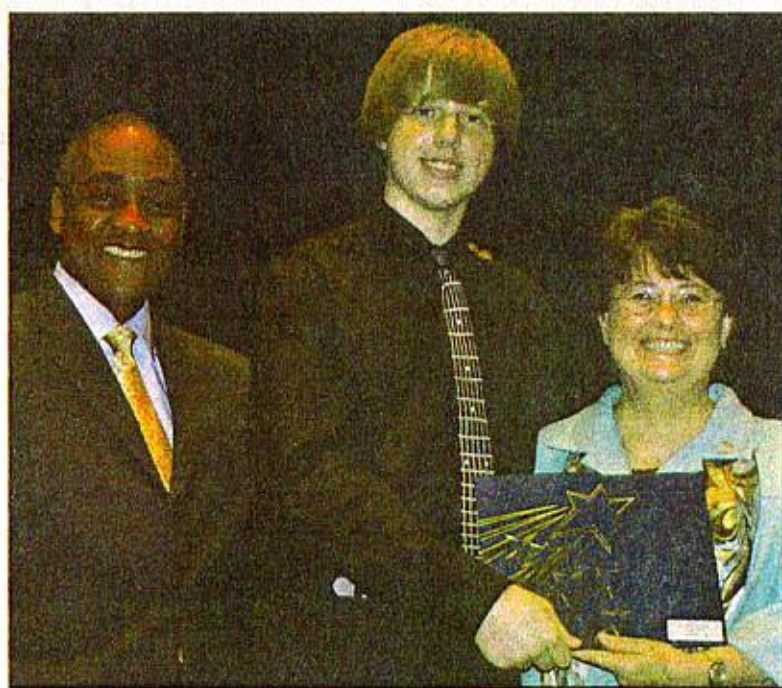
"It's not about the numbers for me. I learn for the love of learning."

Sophomore Alyssa Clements, 16, of Dover, won the community service award.

"I do a lot of community service through FFA and my church," she said.

"I think it is important because it sets an example for

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Caesar Rodney High freshman Andrew McGowan, center, was awarded \$250 for highest grade point average by Challenge Program founder Daniel T. Perkins, left, of Alexandria, Va., and Carole Langiu, of Dover, marketing director of Dover Federal Credit Union.



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Eight Caesar Rodney High students were awarded \$250 each as Challenge Program awards in one of four categories: grade point average, best attendance, most improved student and community service. From left are freshman winners Robert Biggs, Andrew McGowan, Justin McGowan (kneeling) and Seth McFall; Challenge Program founder Daniel T. Perkins of Alexandria, Va.; Dover Federal Credit Union marketing director Carole Langiu, of Dover; principal Elvina Knight; guest speaker and 1983 CR alumnus Deborah Jacobs of Smyrna; and sophomore winners Wendy Chang, Jordan Henry, Alyssa Clements (kneeling) and Elizabeth Wilson.



Caesar Rodney sophomore Elizabeth Wilson was awarded \$250 for highest grade point average by Carole Langiu, marketing director for Challenge Program sponsor Dover Federal Credit Union.

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others. One person can't do it, we need everyone."

Sophomore Jordan Henry, 17, of Dover, won most improved student.

"Winning encourages me to work even harder and keep improving," he said.

"My Dad and my family are what motivates me."

Wendy Chang was the attendance winner for the sophomores.

For the freshman, Andrew McGowan won for highest grade point average, Seth McFall won for community service, Justin McGowan won for most improved student and Robert Biggs won for best attendance.

Mrs. Knight told the students that the award should help them prepare for their future.

She said she hoped those who didn't win would work harder and aim for next year.

Daniel T. Perkins, a northern Virginia business executive who founded the Challenge Program, spoke briefly to the students at Thursday's program.

"Regardless of who you are, you have a chance. My goal is to see you all achieve in whatever you want to do," Mr. Perkins said.

"You are our future. I am betting on you and investing in you, and so is the community."

Mrs. Knight said she believed the program was a success and plans to offer it as an incentive to students again next year.

Though the 2006-07 school year, the program, founded in 2003, was in at least 72 schools, mainly in Pennsylvania.

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