

Managing time leads to success



ROSE WAGNER
The Challenge Program

North Star High School graduate Tabatha McCormick knows the importance of time management and organization when it comes to achieving goals.

McCormick first learned about The Challenge Program Inc. at an orientation assembly during her freshman year at North Star.

The program provides financial incentives to students for achievement in four areas - community service, academic achievement, academic improvement and attendance - in the sophomore, junior and senior grade levels.

"I wasn't eligible at that time for any awards," McCormick said. "However, during my freshman year, I definitely kept that thought in the back of my mind."

McCormick went on to win the academic achievement award three years in a row. She attributes her success to her ability to stay focused and devote an equal amount of time to work and play.

As captain of the volleyball team, class treasurer, National Honor Society treasurer, Mu Alpha Theta president, chorus member and participant in the school's musical productions, McCormick said her schedule

was extremely hectic at times.

"I was very stressed with it all, plus schoolwork," McCormick said. "But I managed my time wisely, and, if anything, it helped me become more responsible."

McCormick said she had to work very hard in all of her classes. However, one class in particular gave her the most trouble.

"Statistics was one of my most challenging classes because it was so different from any other math I had ever taken," McCormick said. "I set aside time to study every night. Organization really helped me stay focused."

McCormick also said that The Challenge Program's monetary incentive was a great motivational tool when she had difficulties.

"I did struggle at times with my grades, but the reward at the end kept me going," McCormick said.

Because of her hard work, McCormick won The Challenge Program's academic achievement award her sophomore, junior and senior years at North Star. Her cumulative award amount totaled \$750.

"I used some of my prize money to help buy the car that I still drive today," McCormick said. "(After I graduated) I used the money to pay for my

college textbooks."

McCormick is a freshman at Clarion University, using the same time-management skills she learned in high school to succeed and learning to incorporate them into a new type of workload.

"There are many, many assignments," McCormick said.

"It's much different from high school, but I'm learning a lot."

With a successful high school career behind her, McCormick is looking forward to the future, working with the foundations she built at North Star and the perseverance and drive that The Challenge Program helped instill in her.

"I'm still the same person who graduated from North Star, with the same priorities and determination," McCormick said. "I'm just in a different environment."

The awards at North Star High School are sponsored by Center Rock Inc. and Somerset Trust Co.

The Challenge Program Inc. is a nonprofit organization whose dual mission is to provide high school students with financial incentives for success and to build business-education partnerships.

