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Program offers students work-related lessons

Four years ago, Alpha Natural Resources, formerly Foundation Coal, became a sponsor of The **Challenge Program** Inc., the first company in Greene County to do so. The company also chose Greene County Career and Technology Center and Jefferson-Morgan High School as local schools to sponsor.

Karen Zalom, supervisor of human resources at Alpha Natural Resources, and Jim Blanc, manager of human resources, met with a group of students at Greene County Career and Technology Center to find out what they wanted to hear at the annual fall assemblies.

"The consensus was that they were interested in information and skills that would help them succeed in their education and the job market after graduation," Zalom said.

In 2008, The **Challenge Program** presented, "How to sink or swim during your interview." During the skit, actors posed as potential employees.

"The students saw great examples of what to do, such as arrive on time, dress appropriately, etc.," Zalom said. "They also saw what not to do."

In 2009, the assembly focused on internship and was titled, "The internship of today can lead to the career of tomorrow."

The skits also tied in the importance of the program's award categories: academic achievement, attendance, academic improvement and community service.

"The **Challenge Program** gives us an opportunity to instill a sense of dedication, responsibility, community service and most importantly, work ethic, in the students," Zalom said. "The students of today are our employees of tomorrow."

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