

Program provides incentive for student

Vanessa Ewt, a junior at Laurel Valley High School, won a Challenge Program attendance award last year. Along with the monetary cash incentive, Ewt said that her determination and love for school helped her to win.

"I've always been a person who wants to be at school because I love my classes and teachers," Ewt said.

"The money helps too. It gives me that little boost in the morning to get out of bed."

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**VANESSA EWT,
CHALLENGE
PROGRAM
ATTENDANCE AWARD
WINNER**

The Challenge Program Inc. provides a \$250 cash incentive to students for achievement in four areas – community service, academic excellence, academic improvement and attendance – in the sophomore, junior and senior grade levels.

Ewt is hoping to use skills she has gained from her high



ROSE WAGNER
The Challenge Program

school and The Challenge Program to pursue an education in mechatronics, a combination of mechanical and electrical engineering.

"I plan on going to California University of Pennsylvania for robotic engineering when I graduate. I would love to work for a robotics company," Ewt said. "The Challenge Program will help show my future employers and college that I set a goal for myself to win an award and I completed it. Plus, the perfect attendance is something they would focus on."

Ewt is involved extracurricular activities including National Honor Society, yearbook staff, and Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

She also is a member of The Challenge Program Student Advisory Board. The board works to improve the program based on student opinion.

"It's a great way for us to give our own feedback about the program, representing our schools," Ewt said.

"I've already made some sug-

gestions to the group."

Ewt noted that she sees the benefits from being involved with The Challenge Program, not only in herself, but in her fellow students.

"The program has done great things for my high school. I have personally seen students work harder than ever for an award," Ewt said. "Winning isn't worth anything unless you truly work for it. I'm hoping to win the attendance award again this year."

The Challenge Program awards at Laurel Valley are sponsored by RRI Energy.

The Challenge Program Inc. is a nonprofit organization that partners with business to motivate high school students both in and out of the classroom. For more information about The Challenge Program, visit www.tepinc.org.