



THE STAR REPORT

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HONOR ROLL

The Challenge Program, Inc.'s Honor Roll highlights the accomplishments of our partnering businesses, schools, and students. If you would like to share good news for a future edition, please email us at info@tcpinc.org.

Businesses

Kudos to these TCP business partners for earning the following honors and distinctions:

2015 World's Most Ethical Companies Honorees – Ethisphere:

Concurrent Technologies Corporation (Westmont Hilltop High School, Cambria County)

Columbia Pipeline Group (Cabell Midland High School, WV; Fayette County CTI, Fayette County; United Local High School, OH)

Eastman Chemical Company (Clairton City High School, Allegheny County)

Johnson Controls (Central Westmoreland High School, Westmoreland County)

Top 100 Organizations – PA Business Central

Todd Brice, S&T Bank (Central Cambria High School, Cambria County)

G. Henry Cook, Somerset Trust Company (North Star and Rockwood High Schools, Somerset County)

Vincent J. Delie, First National Bank of PA (Quaker Valley High School, Allegheny County)

Nicholas Delulis, CONSOL Energy (Homer Center High School, Indiana County; Waynesburg High School, Washington County; West Greene High School, Greene County; Moon Area High School and Parkway West CTC, Allegheny County; Lewis County High School, WV)
Dennis Doll, Reliance Bank (Altoona Area High School, Blair County)
Robert Eyer, Wessel & Company (Portage and Penn Cambria High Schools, Cambria County)
Fr. Malachi Van Tassell, St. Francis University (Seton-La Salle High School, Allegheny County)
Randy Frye, St. Francis University (Seton-La Salle High School, Allegheny County)
Ed Sheehan, Concurrent Technologies Corporation (Westmont Hilltop High School, Cambria County)

Top 100 Organizations

1st SUMMIT (Richland High School, Cambria County)
Cabot Oil & Gas (Susquehanna CTC, Susquehanna County; West Side CTC, Luzerne County)
Concurrent Technologies Corporation (Westmont Hilltop High School, Cambria County)
First National Bank of PA (Quaker Valley High School, Allegheny County)
Keller Engineers (Bishop Guilfoyle High School, Blair County)
Range Resources (Avella High School, Burgettstown High School, Chartiers-Houston High School, and Western Area CTC, Washington County).
Reliance Bank (Altoona Area High School, Blair County)
Sheetz (Claysburg-Kimmel High School, Blair County)
Somerset Trust (North Star and Rockwood High Schools, Somerset County)
The Hite Company (Greater Altoona CTC, Williamsburg Community High School, Central High school, Blair County)
Wessel & Company (Portage Area High School and Penn Cambria High School (Cambria County)

Startups to Watch in 2015 – NextPittsburgh

Identified Technologies (Identified Technologies (Pittsburgh Obama High School, Allegheny County)
Shoefitr, Inc. (Wilkesburg High School, Allegheny County)

Upcoming Events

Senior awards season is here! Check out our events calendar to see when we're stopping by your high school to reward five hardworking students for their achievements in academics, attendance, and community service. Congratulations, Seniors!

Welcome to New Staff/Board Members/Partners

The Challenge Program, Inc. welcomes Sara Deyarmin as our new manager of program development! Sara grew up in Windber, PA. She holds a bachelor's degree in communication with a minor in creative writing from The University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown. Her professional background is in marketing, sales and events, having worked for organizations like Servpro in Somerset and the Johnstown Area Heritage Association. She is actively involved with the Windber Relay for Life chapter, serving as the public relations chair as well as being her family's team captain.

Deyarmin will be responsible for servicing our participating high schools and businesses in southwestern PA and for recruiting new business partners in those territories. If you would like more information about partnering with The Challenge Program, Inc., please contact Sara at deyarmins@tcpinc.org.

Spotlight – Student of the Year Finalists

The Challenge Program, Inc. is more than 15 awards. We are a Program for all students. We Challenge students to push themselves to achieve more than they believed they could. We Challenge students to connect today's behavior with tomorrow's opportunities. We Challenge all students to contribute to their communities. We connect students with employment opportunities located in their own communities.

During our 2014 fall Kick-Off season, The Challenge Program was presented to 61,000 students across Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia. This year, The Challenge Program, Inc. held the first Student of the Year competition. We received numerous responses from students across our participating counties and states. ONE of these students will become the 2015 Student of the Year.

2015 Finalists:

Anna D'Acierno – Chartiers Valley High School, Allegheny County

Timothy Grebeck – Canon McMillan High School, Washington County

Brittney Lybarger – Richland High School, Cambria County

Student Testimonials

This Special Edition of Student Testimonials comes from our Inaugural 2015 Student of the Year competition. We received an overwhelming response from students and were impressed by their remarkable stories. These profiles serve as testimonies to both The Challenge Program, Inc., and to our educators, who work hard to help these students achieve academic excellence every day. Here's what some of the student entries had to say:

“The Challenge Program...gave me this powerful feeling, like I could do something great if I really put my mind to it, and that if I stopped looking down on myself all the time I know I could accomplish great things. I started improving my grades and really focusing on making myself a better person so I could better my life.” -- *Katelynn A., Central Cambria High School*

“The Challenge Program...gave me an opportunity to redeem past mistakes academically and for that I say thank you. [The program] gave me incredible work ethic in the aspect that I now try on everything I do to the fullest even if it's a small project.” -- *Brandon Workman, Charleroi High School*

“This year I set my mind on becoming the best possible me I can be, and I discovered one of the easiest ways to make it happen was to focus on each of the areas of The Challenge Program for which I could earn an award. I push myself to maintain my perfect attendance and academic excellence, and I have worked hard developing a log for my community service hours.” -- *Brittany S., Richland High School*

“The community service category has really helped me with my people skills. If I do truly want to become a doctor or something similar interacting with people will be a daily necessity that I now feel I am prepared for. Preforming volunteer work within my community has exposed my to all different kinds of people and personalities, something I will also be exposed to in the workforce no matter what path I end up choosing.” -- *Rachel C., Windber Area High School*

“The Challenge Program definitely has helped me prepare myself for college. Because of wanting to earn one of the awards I learned how to work to the best of my ability in and out of the classroom. My study habits improved from studying right before the test if I was lucky to actually preparing for an exam days in advance.” -- *Megan F., Forest Hills High School*

“This program has influenced my actions these past four years. It has pushed me to open up to the people in my community. I am more comfortable with sharing my time and thoughts with my family, friends, teachers, and many others.” -- *Alexia S., Windber Area High School*

“As a senior, I have attended several Challenge Program kick-off events in the past at my high school. **The energetic atmosphere and excitement towards doing well in school as well as in the community was so encouraging to me as a freshman, and I have applied those passions of the Challenge Program to my everyday life.**” -- *Marissa A., Windber Area High School*

“The STEM category has helped me to prepare for my future career of becoming a doctor. In college I plan to major in biology (pre-med). **The TCP categories help motivate me to focus on my science and math classes.**”-- *Catherine F., Woodland Hills High School*

“Before learning about and listening to The Challenge Program, Inc., I had no idea how much attendance was valued in the workplace. I had always been pretty consistent with my attendance, but I now realize how important it is that I show up every day. In my future career, consistent attendance will let my employer know I’m dedicated to my job, and am a responsible, dependable person.” -- *Autumn H., Richland High School*

“The Challenge Program, Inc.’s community service award interested me into volunteering at a local hospital. I wish to work in a hospital environment, and volunteering has given me the experience of working with patients...volunteering has helped me learn how to communicate and socialize with others, which has helped me prepare for my future career and life.” -- *Eriko I., Windber Area High School*

“The awards have helped and influenced my path of a future career and they showed me how a career should be made. **The categories gave me a rubric of what I should do to get that dream career.**” -- *Garett C., Canon-McMillan High School*

“While my grades have never been “bad,” I realized that I never honestly put in the effort to achieve more-than-satisfactory grades. **Now, even though the improvement has only been one letter grade in most cases, I feel better knowing that because I am actually putting forth more effort, I am achieving more.**” -- *Mikita H., Greater Johnstown High School*