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 814-533-7401 ext. 100



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# THE STAR REPORT

*The Challenge Program, Inc.'s Newsletter*

Volume 4, Issue 3

Summer 2016

## SENIOR PROGRAMS

Once again, The Challenge Program, Inc. took part in the Senior Awards Programs for all of our 113 participating schools. We'd like to take this time to thank our business partners, our educators, our staff and especially our many volunteers who assisted us this spring to make each awards program special!

**COMMUNITY SERVICE:** 16,351 hours served

**ATTENDANCE:** 361 Seniors came to school every day.

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**ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE:** Average GPA Among Senior Winners = 5.07

*"The Challenge Program makes me want to come to school."*

*"I feel more confident in school, more fulfilled in life because of my [community service]."*

*"I wanted to win Academic Improvement; I knew I was capable of getting my act together."*

## 2016 EVENTS



**Young Professionals Event – Throwback Thursday**  
**February 25, 2016**  
**BUFORD'S KITCHEN**  
**6pm – 9pm**

### Winter

#### Spotlights

[John Augustine](#)  
[Discusses Career and Technical Education](#)  
[1ST SUMMIT BANK: Investing in Local Youth](#)

#### Archive

[Spring 2015 Edition](#)  
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## WELCOME TO NEW PARTNERS

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Check back in September 2016 when we will welcome new business partners and new and reinstated schools for the 2016-2017 Program year.

#### **New & Reinstated Schools:**

*Tickets were \$40 at the door (\$30 presale) and included appetizers, two drink tickets, and complementary valet parking and a great "Throwback" themed auction.*

### **New Businesses:**

This year, The Challenge Program, Inc. focused on developing Young Professional groups in Allegheny and Cambria Counties. We will be forming a Young Professionals group in Washington County.

The Pittsburgh Young Professionals group held a fundraising event in February – Throwback Thursday – at Buford's Kitchen. The event was a big hit and drew nearly 70 young professionals to have a good time and learn a little bit about The Challenge Program, Inc.

The Pittsburgh group was also an integral part of the success of the 2016 Crystal Owl Gala. An auction committee was formed and these energetic and enthusiastic individuals – headed up by Young Professionals member, Brittany Holzer (Attorney, Tucker Arensberg PC) – created a beautiful and exciting auction and raffles for the event.

Both the Allegheny and Cambria County groups were a vital component to the TCP Spring Senior Award Ceremonies. As many senior events take place on the same day and time, young professionals were worthy volunteers to step in as TCP representatives.

Young Professionals are an important demographic to The Challenge Program and we look forward to continuing this exciting relationship with them. [Young Professionals - Photo Gallery](#)

Recommend or volunteer to be a Young Professional for Allegheny, Cambria or the new Washington County YP, email: [info@tcpinc.org](mailto:info@tcpinc.org) or call 814-533-7401 x100

## Polytechnic Career Awareness Event

March 15, 2016 – 5:30-7:00PM



## Polytechnic Career Awareness Event March 15, 2016 Richland Senior High School 5:30pm – 7pm

The Challenge Program, Inc. presented its inaugural Polytechnic Career Awareness Event on March 15, 2016 at Richland High School in Johnstown, PA. The focus of the event was to introduce parents to the in-demand, gold-collar careers available in our region today and what the demands will be in the next decade.

Polytechnic is an umbrella term that means ‘many technologies’ and encompasses a wide-range of industries from manufacturing and construction to health and social care. The rebirth of these occupations require some post-secondary training, technology and most importantly, life/family sustaining wages.



The forum was aimed at informing parents – and the many students who accompanied their parents – about the evolving landscape of the 21st century employment market. Employers are already facing a skills gap crisis in all of

the above mentioned fields. The Challenge Program decided to address the issue head-on with inspiration and support from John Augustine, Director of the Greater Johnstown CTC and Shawn Kaufman, Director of Human Resources with Riggs Industries in Somerset, PA.

The evening began with a keynote speaker from the PA Department of Labor & Industry. It is estimated that within the next 10 years, nearly 80% of all career opportunities will require a high school diploma and some additional post-secondary education and/or training. The keynote address was followed by a speed-networking session with local employers and businesses. Education, training, financing and employment resources were available to help parents and students formulate a plan moving on after high school.

The event was such a success, it will be repeated in Johnstown for 2017 and replicated in Allegheny/Washington Counties.

If you would like to attend, host or sponsor one of the 2017 events, please email [info@tcpinc.org](mailto:info@tcpinc.org) or call 814-533-7401 x100.

## **Facilitating Connections**

**March 23, 2016**

**LeMont Restaurant 5:30pm – 7:30pm**

Education and Business connected for the second year in a casual after-hours environment. Businesses in the building and construction field were able to communicate with education decision makers regarding their future building needs.

Another event is being planned for 2017. If you are interested in attending or being a vendor at the event please email [info@tcpinc.org](mailto:info@tcpinc.org) or call 814-533-7401 x100.

## **CRYSTAL OWL GALA**

**May 4, 2016**

**Carnegie Music Hall**

**5:00 – 9pm**

For the second year, Crystal Owl Gala took place at the historic Carnegie Music Hall in Pittsburgh, PA. The evening was filled with wonderful music, delicious food, exciting auction items and the generosity of sponsors and guests. The event also drew attention to the heartwarming stories told by the three student finalists of our 2016 Student of the Year contest, about how The Challenge Program helped them improve their school careers and future.

[Crystal Owl Gala – Photo Gallery](#)

[Read more about our Finalists and the Student of the Year...](#)

## **THE CHALLENGE PROGRAM, INC. is named 2016 Select Charity of Choice by The Pittsburgh Association Charity Cigar Dinner**

On Thursday, May 26, 2016, The Pittsburgh Association held their 15th annual Cigar Dinner and designated The Challenge Program, Inc. as the recipient of this year's proceeds.

The dinner was held at the Duquesne Club in Pittsburgh and featured fine dining, excellent cigars and an auction. Doug Shriber, a host committee member of the Cigar Dinner and a member of The Challenge Program, Inc. Board of Directors, was instrumental in introducing The Challenge Program to the members of The Pittsburgh Association and gaining their support. Through the generosity of its members and guests, The Challenge Program, Inc. received more than \$40,000.

“It was a wonderful event and a great show of support from the Pittsburgh community,” remarked Challenge Program founder, Dan Perkins, “and a wonderful contribution from a member of our board. We are greatly appreciative of the donation.”

## THE CHALLENGE PROGRAM, INC. – Connecting Business & Education

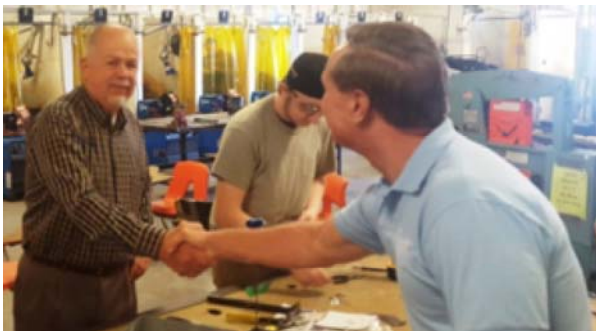


### Walking the Talk

From tours with educators and students to classroom presentations and mock interviews for students, The

Challenge Program, Inc. facilitated a minimum of 13 business/education workforce activities for the 2015-2016 Program year.

Representatives from the fields of manufacturing, insurance, healthcare and technology were able to introduce and engage



students and faculty with their industries. Our efforts to motivate high school students in five success categories and introduce students to career opportunities within their communities took shape this year in big ways.

We facilitated two job shadowing experiences for our **2015 Student of the Year**, Brittany Lybarger.  
Lybarger

shadowed with two major organizations. The first was MARC USA in Pittsburgh – a Crystal Owl sponsor and current board member. The second was 1st SUMMIT BANK, a Challenge Program sponsor at Richland High School where Lybarger graduated in the spring of 2016.

The Challenge Program has also facilitated volunteer opportunities between students and several personal care facilities with whom we partner across our service areas.

Growing everyday, The Challenge Program already has plans in place to increase this outreach and further connect our business partners and students attending the high schools they support.

## CHALLENGE PROGRAM BOARD MEMBER receives Service Award

The Challenge Program, Inc. congratulates John Weinstein as a recipient of The March of Dimes ***Service to Humanity Award*** .

The March of Dimes held their 2016

*Transportation, Building &*

*Construction Award*

event in Pittsburgh, PA. John Weinstein (pictured right) accepted the award on Thursday, June 23rd at the Westin Convention Center. The event drew over 500 attendees while raising important funds for the March of Dimes. Weinstein has been a long term member of The Challenge Program Board of Directors/Executive Committee,





working towards the growth, progress and direction of The Challenge Program.

[Board of Directors](#)

[Biographies...](#)

Questions or comments, or to be removed from our email list, please email: [info@tcpinc.org](mailto:info@tcpinc.org) or call 814-533-7401 x100

## < Testimonials: Dear Mr. Perkins >

I know that everyone at my school strives to work harder because of The Challenge Program, Inc., and it's nice to know people care enough to try to improve their grades/morale.

- [Lauren W.](#), Riverview High School (Allegheny County)

Thank you so much for coming to my school on inspirational assemblies, and awarding

- [Sara M.](#), Bishop Carroll High School (Allegheny County)

**Contact  
Information**

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**First Name:**

**Last Name:**

**Email address:**

SUBSCRIBE

🏠 Address :  
The Challenge  
Program, Inc.  
915 Menoher  
Boulevard, Suite B  
Johnstown, PA 15905

📞 Phone : 814-533-  
7401

✉ Email :  
info@tcpinc.org

🌐 Website:  
<http://tcpinc.org>

