

10th Annual Crystal Owl Gala



The Crystal Owl Gala is celebrating its 10th year as The Challenge Program Inc.'s (TCP's) major fundraising event on April 26, 2018. A former employee, who had been an event planner, suggested to the Executive Director, Barb Grandinetti, "All non-profits have signature events and we should have one, too." That was all Grandinetti needed to hear. If an event was going to be good for The Challenge Program, it was going to happen. Grandinetti, now the President of The Challenge Program, Inc., leads the charge on the event every year.

Reflecting on the 10th anniversary, TCP Founder and Chairman of the Board, Dan Perkins, has this to say, "*It is with a sense of great pride that we celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Crystal Owl event. It seems like only yesterday that we were considering an event to commemorate the year's success of TCP. Since then, what's happened has been unbelievable!*"

Every year as we approach the date of The Challenge Program, Inc.'s signature fundraising event, someone will ask, "Why the name Crystal Owl"? Perkins was visiting an aviary at the time the event was being developed and met a baby owl named Ernie. Perkins thought that the baby owl represented youth, wisdom, and a promise for the future, just like TCP students. A crystal is clean and transparent, and highly refractive and became the perfect image for The Challenge Program's message encouraging students to believe that if they don't like the path they're on, they can always change direction and shine.

Workforce Connections

The morning started with a little background about Martin-Baker America, and a video depicting seat ejections.

Ferndale High School/ Martin-Baker America

Rob Marhefka, a manufacturing engineer with Martin-Baker, explained in detail to the students of Ferndale High School in Johnstown, PA, the technical aspects of manufacturing an ejection seat for military fighter jets. Students were engaged, asking questions regarding the process and daily routines. Marhefka explained the process from the raw materials to machined parts to the assembly phase, stressing the importance of each step to produce safe and reliable ejection seats. Operations Manager, Al Boring, said that the interaction between students and his employees was, "Great!" Sara Deyarmin Jones is the TCP Senior Program Development Manager for Cambria, Somerset, Blair, Indiana and Armstrong counties and assisted in coordinating this connection.



After last month's roundtable meeting between Forbes Road CTC students, and Forbes Hospital's CEO, Krista

Forbes Road CTC/ Forbes Hospital

Bragg, Forbes Hospital/Allegheny Health Network returned to the school for a presentation to students regarding career pathways and job opportunities at FH/AHN. The Dietary, Facilities, and Warehouse departments were on hand to present the options to juniors and seniors. At the end of each session, students had the chance to ask questions. Myra Bernhart is the TCP Workforce Development Manager for Career & Technology/AVTS Centers in Allegheny, Beaver, Butler, Greene, Fayette, Washington, and Westmoreland counties and helped arrange this presentation.



2018 Senior Awards Coming Soon! 5 Seniors at each participating school will receive \$200!



**2018
STUDENT OF THE YEAR
Competition is now
CLOSED**

The names of 3 Finalists
and all Honorable Mention Candidates
will be announced on **March 19, 2018.**

*TCP'S 10TH ANNUAL
CRYSTAL OWL GALA
Thursday, APRIL 26, 2018
HEINZ HISTORY CENTER*

Click here for more details:
[Crystal Owl Gala](#)

www.tcpinc.org/ALUMNI

For more Alumni stories go to: www.tcpinc.org/alumni



Olivia G.
STEM Award
Butler County AVTS/
XTO Energy

I would just like the time to say thank you for the STEM award. This has opened up opportunities for me on my way to finding a career. Thank you for taking the time to find this program and help others on their journey; it means a lot to everyone who receives them.



www.tcpinc.org

Tom R.
Academic Improvement Award
Portage Area High School/
C-B-W Schools Credit Union & Highmark

I greatly appreciate your generous award. Growing up with my mother playing both roles money was never plentiful. I'm not telling you this to feel sorry for me but for your to realize that what you do truly means a lot to not only me but plenty of kids! I hope one day I can really give back in any way to kids less fortunate.

Welcome

New Board Members

Johnathan Garlow
Member
President,
Ford Business Machines



Johnathan believes in community growth and providing employment opportunities for other young professionals. He is a native of Fayette County. [Read more...](#)

Kyler D. Ford
Member
VP of Sales,
Maven Machines



Kyler is active in several area non-profits and recently joined TCP's Board of Directors. He is a native of Bedford County. [Read more...](#)