

2018 STUDENT OF THE YEAR FINALISTS



Nathaniel Semanek, Junior
Bedford High School
Business Partner -
Corle Building Systems

"Every single student was offered the same opportunity...work as hard as you can, make great choices and define your future."

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Miranda Marsinek, Senior
Meadowbrook High School
Business Partner -
Antero Resources/MarkWest

"I learned the characteristics that a student can obtain by working hard throughout the school year and how important they are to employers."

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Cheyenne Springette, Senior
Pittsburgh Creative and
Performing Arts High School
MARC USA - *Business Partner*

"You can use [the awards] to achieve success and help it enhance your life goal. I have noticed my work ethic and time management skills have grown."

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The 2018 Student of the Year competition closed on Friday, March 2nd. We received more than 300 entries. Thank you to the educators for promoting the competition and congratulations to the students for submitting entries.

We appreciated reading about how The Challenge Program, Inc. has made an impact on the lives of students. Our judges had a hard time narrowing the field to the top three students, but as you can see above, they did indeed find three who embraced The Challenge Program message and made great strides to be the best version of themselves they could be.

On April 26, 2018, these three finalists, accompanied by family, and representatives from their schools and business partners will gather to learn who will be named the 2018 Student of the Year.



THERE'S STILL TIME!

Join us for the 10th Annual Crystal Owl Gala

Thursday, April 26, 2018, Heinz History Center, Pittsburgh, PA

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

[Register Here!](#)

Workforce Connections

www.tcpinc.org

From financial best practices to summer employment opportunities for students, The Challenge Program, Inc. sponsors, are promoting their businesses in the communities where students live.

**Northern Cambria HS/
McAneny Brothers**
Sara Jones
Sr. Program Development Manager

McAneny representatives, Dana Martino and Amy Noon, presented their organization to students from NCHS. They addressed:

- Various departments where people are employed
- **Summer employment opportunities** for high school seniors
- Applications for interested seniors



**Ringgold High School/
cfsbank**
Maria Campieri
Program Development Manager

Ryan Bassi, Brad Bilitski, Valerie Buraczewski and Renee Zemany from cfsbank, presented **financial best practices** to RHS students:

- Checking accounts and Credit versus Debit
- Credit reports
- Identity theft and Mobile banking security
- IRA's



**Central Westmoreland CTC/
Levin Furniture**
Myra Bernhart
Workforce Development Manager

Levin Furniture representatives, Cathy Biller and Paul Ness, presented their organization to students. They addressed:

- An overview of their organization
- **Summer job opportunities** in their corporate headquarters
- An upcoming facility tour for interested students.



Student of the Year Top 7 Finalists



The following students round off the top 10 finalists for the 2018 Student of the Year competition. These students, through the generosity of an anonymous donor, will receive a \$100 for embracing The Challenge Program message and improving their academics and lives.

**Central Westmoreland CTC/
Levin Furniture**

Paytn Szymkiewicz - Senior

All of the Challenge Program categories are vital to success.

**Indiana High School/
First Commonwealth Bank**

Rebecca Shellenbarger - Senior

The Challenge Program helped me realize that I can do anything that I put my mind to.

**Portage Area High School/
Mount Aloysius & Highmark**

Stephen Vivis - Sophomore

There is so much to gain that you can't refuse this chance of a lifetime.

**Ringgold High School/
cfsbank**

Cole Nickolls - Sophomore

The message from The Challenge Program inspired me to become more involved and help make a difference.

**Seneca Valley High School/
XTO Energy**

Alaina Greco - Senior

I pass the [TCP] posters every day and they are a continual reminder that working hard pays off.

**South Side High School/
FirstEnergy**

Nathan Roy - Junior

The TCP message caused me to ponder what the end goal really is...the work that is put in now will cause rewards in the future.

**Westmont Hilltop High School/
Concurrent Technologies Corp**

Susan Williams - Junior

I discovered TCP was about growing and evolving in a changing world. I challenged myself to embrace subjects I would shy away from, and teach myself that my mind was only as limited as I allowed it to be.