

2020-2021



THE
CHALLENGE
PROGRAM Inc.

Connecting Business and Education

A Program for All Students – Grades 10, 11, and 12

The Challenge Program, Inc.'s mission is to build sustainable Business/Education partnerships while motivating students to develop the work habits required to succeed in school and in their future careers.

Virtual Programming ★ Cash Incentives ★ Career Readiness

Inspiring students to ★ Believe ★ Reach ★ Achieve ★ for 17 years

3 STEPS

Act 339 Reflection Survey

PROGRAM ORIENTATION:

The Challenge Program, Inc. (TCP) connects each school with a local community business partner who sponsors the Program in the school for the year.

- For Fall 2020 TCP will implement Virtual Kick-Off assemblies of the Program for the students
- TCP & Business Partner introduce the 5 awards categories, connecting them to academic and career success
- Satisfies PA CEW Standards 13.1.11; 13.2.11; 13.3.11

Virtual Workforce Connections

CAREER READINESS and WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT:

The Business Partner engages with students in one (or more) workforce development activity

- For 2020-2021, Virtual Activities will be planned for students and educators (interviews, presentations, tours, business partner weeks) but may change depending on CDC guidelines and school and business policies.
- **Students & Educators** learn about local career options and the training and/or education required for these jobs.
- **Educators, especially in Pennsylvania,** can use these reflection surveys as Articles of Evidence for Career Standards and Goals compliance.
- Satisfies PA CEW Standards 13.1.11; 13.2.11

Submit Recipients go to
Tcpinc.org/awards

AWARD ACCOMPLISHMENT:

Through the sponsorship of the Business Partner, 15 awards are presented to the students for the school year.

- **5 seniors, 5 juniors, and 5 sophomores** will receive a **\$200 check** in their name, per school.
- For Fall 2020, Virtual Awards Announcements/Presentations are planned.
- For Spring 2021, Virtual Awards Announcements/Presentations are planned, but may change depending on CDC guidelines and school and business policies



5 AWARDS

ATTENDANCE*

- ✓ students with "0" absences according to the school's policies. In cases where no students have "0" absences, move to the next best attendance records according to the school's policies.

STEM

(science, technology, engineering, math)

- ✓ #1 ranked student in any class related to the four subject categories. Commercial, retail, industrial, and all levels of academic courses are to be included to accommodate high school and career/technology curriculum, and to encourage all students to reach for this award.

COMMUNITY SERVICE*

serving others in a pandemic may take some creativity

- ✓ **Virtual ideas** for service hours are organized online fundraising, card and letter writing to troops or personal care facilities, online outreach for food pantries, lending talent in social media, art, graphic design, photography, videography, writing to local nonprofits and churches.

[Community Service Forms](#)

ACADEMIC IMPROVEMENT

- ✓ the **greatest increase** in GPA from the end of one school year, to the end of the next school year – regardless of the grade itself.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

- ✓ highest overall GPA at the end of the current school year.

Students are challenged to earn a cash incentive in each of the five categories.

*Due to hybrid learning, TCP defers to educators and individual school policies to determine criteria for Attendance and Community Service.

SELECTING AWARD RECIPIENTS

*There are **15 Awards** for each Participating School
5 Seniors – 5 Juniors – 5 Sophomores.*

For each of the award categories, there will be more than one student eligible for each award. This group of students is known as –

The Award Finalists

- *Seniors' grades and service hours are calculated from 1st – 3rd marking periods*
 - *Seniors receive their awards before graduation in the spring.*
 - *Juniors' and Sophomores' grades and service hours are calculated from 1st – 4th marking periods.*
 - *Juniors and Sophomores receive their awards at the start of the next school term.*
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- Award Finalists are selected from the top 10% of students **WHO MEET THE CRITERIA** of an award category.
 - Students who are selected as **Award Finalists** are requested to take a survey.
 - Survey Links for award finalists can be found at www.tcpinc.org/awards.
 - Upon completion of student survey, a confirmation code will appear. The code is - **Believe. Reach. Achieve. Stay Safe.**
 - As proof, students should write down the code along with their name and return it to the educator in charge or email it to the educator.
 - Gather the papers with the students' names and place them in a drawing for the appropriate award category.
 - If a student qualifies for more than one category, simply reuse or copy the paper.
 - To submit the names of the award recipients - **Go to www.tcpinc.org/awards** - TCP's dedicated Awards page for all the awards criteria and information.

STUDENT OF THE YEAR

Each year The Challenge Program, Inc. holds an event that thanks our supporters and showcases all that their support has allowed us to accomplish in the year. It is called the Crystal Owl Gala and it is held every spring. Whether the event is being held onsite at the Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh, or as a virtual social media event, as it was this year, it is an exciting time for guests, student finalists, staff and board members.

Students tell about how they took the Challenge, heard what the business partners said, and decided to make a change. Some turn around their behavior, some turn around their academics, others have anchored themselves against overwhelming odds to make the most during their high school careers.

The Crystal Owl Gala culminates in highlighting three student finalists out of hundreds of competition entries and ends in the naming of a Student of the Year.

**The search for the 2021 Student of the Year begins January 4, 2021.
The entry form and complete information will be located at**

www.tcpinc.org/student-of-the-year

3 Finalists will receive \$1,000 each!

Right now you can click this link and meet the **2020 Student of the Year finalists and the winner**, Gracie Hartle, a sophomore from South Side High School in Beaver County, sponsored by Energy Harbor, formerly FirstEnergy. From there you can see all the Student of the Year finalists and winners since 2015.

A digital and/or physical banner will be provided to each school to encourage students to enter. No student needs to ever have earned one of the five Challenge Program awards – they have to try and tell us about their experience. That's it!

Open to all 10th, 11th, and 12th-grade students – January 4, 2021.

“Why Not Me?”

Why Not Now?”

“The Challenge Program’s theme for the year was simple...’Why Not Me?’

Those three words in an instant were able to turn my entire academic career around.”

*Gracie Hartle, 2020 Student of the Year
South Side High School
sponsored by Energy Harbor (formerly FirstEnergy)*



RESOURCE LINKS

www.tcpinc.org

Educator Information

www.tcpinc.org/educators

Awards Information and Submission

www.tcpinc.org/awards

Resources (community service forms, FAQ)

<https://www.tcpinc.org/resources>

Workforce Development (Career Awareness Series, 339 survey links)

<https://www.tcpinc.org/workforce-development/>

Student of the Year Application Link

www.tcpinc.org/student-of-the-year

Media (videos/blogs/articles)

<https://www.tcpinc.org/media>

