

## HVAC firm selected as Great Valley Young Entrepreneur award winner

The Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Business and Industry announced that Jason Bellitts, owner of Bellitts HVAC, has been selected as the Great Valley Young Entrepreneur of the Year. The honor, sponsored by Bank of America, is designed to promote the development of future business owners and operators in our region.

Bellitts, 24, is the owner and operator of his company. After working for other large plumbing, heating and cooling companies, Bellitts started his business in 2002.

Bellitts' HVAC installs all makes and models of heating and cooling equipment which includes furnaces that use fuel oil, gas, coal or heat pumps.

Bellitts started working on small jobs until he accumulated enough money to buy a van and equipment in order to accomplish larger, more complex jobs.

While discussing his business with his grandmother and mentioning how it had progressed and where he saw his future in the business, his grandmother wanted to assist him and purchased his first official Bellitts' HVAC work truck. Since then, Bellitts has introduced new equipment and new products to the area.



Jason Bellitts

Bellitts has a client base of 300 customers servicing the areas which ranges from Tamaqua to Wilkes-Barre. Commenting on the award, Chamber President Donna Palermo stated, "Encouraging young people to operate new businesses here at home is the key to our region's success into the next century. Bellitts has demonstrated strong business skills and is a true success story. He is consistently learning about and installing new equipment for his business. On a regular basis, he attends seminars and classes to continue his education on how to provide the latest and most efficient technology to his customers."

Bellitts was nominated for the award by the Greater Hazleton Area Civic Partnership that provided scholarship money for Bellitts to attend and graduate from Lehigh Carbon Community College. One of the conditions of the scholarship was that the person continues to live and work in Greater Hazleton.

The chamber wishes him well in his future endeavors.

"This is yet another example of regionalization as we work together with the

Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Business and Industry, the Great Valley Technology Alliance and the Northeastern Pennsylvania Technology Institute," Palermo said.

According to Donna Sedor, executive director of the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Business and Industry stated, "Jason Bellitts' entrepreneurial success and the success of Bellitts HVAC is truly a testament to the talents and abilities of our greatest natural resource—our young people. As a Chamber, we see it as our job to encourage and celebrate the success of young people like Jason that see the area's potential and are willing to do something to help shape the future."

Chris Haran, president/CEO of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Technology Institute comments, "Jason is a glaring example of what happens when we combine entrepreneurial enthusiasm with a supportive regional business climate."

Bellitts will be honored at the Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce's 115th annual Dinner and Executive Business Exposition on Thursday, and at the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber's Awards event in June.

Reservations to attend the Chamber's annual Dinner can be made by calling the chamber office at 453-1509.