

Chamber of Commerce honors top high school students

The top academic students in each of the four Hazleton Area High Schools were honored Tuesday at the 29th annual Academic Achievement Banquet coordinated by the Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce.

Those students honored were:

□ Weatherly Area: Jennifer Dietrich, Corey Hadzick, Jenny Harris, Lindsey Hinkle, Stacy Kairewich, Kristin Koble, Kristin Kotch, David Russell, Thomas Superdock and Joseph Ward Jr.

□ Bishop Hafey High School: Brittany Conahan, Valerie Gyurko, Eric Lucadamo, Christine Petrilla, Rebecca Pierotti, Peter Rudegear, David Santarelli, Drew Shiner, Mary Trishman and Terri Witkowski.

□ MMI: Jason Boock, Kristin Bruch, Ambika Chikarmane, T.J. Crofcheck, Michael Dubatto, Shawn Kuter, Michael Kuzmak, Naveen Mohan, Chris Polashenski and Kasandra Rodriguez.

□ Hazleton Area: Erika Barletta, Caroline Barrett, Shauna Bennett, Ralph Cameron, Alyssa Carsia, Jennifer Cigler, David Deshisky, Andrew Derr, Shawn Duffy, Jolene Esposito, Michael Feschuk, Victoria Fulk, Cody Gatts, Julie Grega, Shannon Kolensky, Lindsey Kost, Drew Labanoski, Eugene LaBuz, Kelly Lichty, Nicole Lutz, Terrence Malloy, Frank Olander, Christine Parlatore, Anthony Pozzessere, Nassim Sattar, Kristen Scatton, Lisa Sheaman, Daniel Swank, Amy Zeleznock and Amber Ziminski.

The program, begun in 1975, was designed to recognize the scholastic achievements of the top ten students from Bishop Hafey, Freeland, Hazleton, MMI, Weatherly and West Hazleton High Schools.

In 1994, the program was altered to reflect the consolidation of Hazleton, West Hazleton, and Freeland High Schools into the new Hazleton Area High School.

Since its inception, the program has honored over sixteen hundred of the region's top students and remains the only program of its kind in northeastern Pa.

It is coordinated by the Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce and sponsored through financial contributions from the local business



The Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce honored top high school students at the 29th annual Academic Achievement Banquet. Taking part are, from left: William L. Spear, program chairman, Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce, Jason Boock representing MMI Preparatory, Peter Rudegear representing Bishop Hafey High School, Kristin Kotch representing Weatherly Area High School, Eugene LaBuz representing Hazleton Area High School, Correale F. Steven, Superior Court Judge, main speaker, Dr. William Shergalis, president, MMI, Michael Stofko, academic dean, Bishop Hafey High School, Stuart Tripler, principal, Weatherly Area High School, Robert Stefanovich, principal, Hazleton Area High School, Arthur Tarone, treasurer, CAN DO Inc., Pastor Peggy Sue Pfeffer, Robert Skulsky, executive director, Greater Hazleton Area Civic Partnership.

as from individual contributions.

According to Program Chairman William L. Spear, "These contributions from the community, make it possible for us to host these sixty students and provide them with a unique memento of the evening, and of their scholastic achievement."

Each participant also received special recognition from state Sen. Raphael Musto.

The Academic Awards program is organized with the cooperation of the school officials from each of the High Schools involved.

Participating this year were Robert Stefanovich, Hazleton Area, P.J. Melvin, Bishop Hafey, Stuart Tripler, Weatherly Area, and Dr. William Shergalis, MMI. Also serving on the planning committee, in addition to Spear, was Donna Palermo, president of the Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce, Joseph Yannuzzi of CrossRoads Computers, Laura Pike from Career Development and Employment, and attorney George Hludzick.

Speaker for the evening was Superior Court Judge Correale F. Stevens. Musical entertainment was performed

High School.

The invocation and benediction was provided by Pastor Peggy Sue Pfeffer, St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Freeland, and Chaplain at St. Luke's Village.

Contributors to the 2003 academic achievement program included:

Dr. Deb Carr, Dr. and Mrs. Edgar Dessen, William L. Morse Jr., Alcoa Kama Corp., Bemis Co., Benny Heater Co. Inc., Best Western Genetti Motor Lodge, Bob's Sporting Goods, Comfort Inn, West Hazleton, CrossRoads Computers, Fellin's Jewelers, First Federal, Gebhardt's Enterprises Inc., Ground Round, Hazleton Barbershoppers, Highway Equipment and Supply Co., HON Industries, Internal Medicine Assoc. of Hazleton, Lackawanna College, Luzerne County Community College, Mylotte, David & Fitzpatrick, Nathan's Furniture Store, National Starch & Chemical Co., Parente Randolph PC Accountants & Consultants, Penn State Hazleton, PenTele Data, Physical Therapy Services of Hometown, PPL Electric Utilities, Senior Citizens of Beaver Meadows, Sister Cities Assoc. of Hazleton, Inc., Syner & Clemente, UGI Utili-

Rotary Club and Wright Motor Sales.

In addition to honoring the top sixty students in the area, the Chamber also recognized the six senior high school students who served as Honorary Student Directors on the Board of Directors of CAN DO Inc., during 2002/03.

Those students, recognized by Arthur Tarone, treasurer, were:

Eugene LaBuz and Nassim Sattar, Hazleton Area High School, Mary Kathleen Trishman, Bishop Hafey High School, Jason Boock, MMI, Michael Bauder, Immanuel Christian School, and David Russell, Weatherly Area.

Also presented at the awards banquet was a scholarship provided through the Greater Hazleton Area Civic Partnership to Michael Budda and William M. Yenkevich Jr. Robert Skulsky, executive director of the Partnership and Jack St. Pierre, chairman of the Scholarship Committee presented a check to each.

The Annual Academic Awards program is coordinated under the auspices of the Chamber's Community Affairs Task Force, in cooperation with the administration and principals from each of the