

## DELAWARE COUNTY'S PREMIER EDUCATION RECOGNITION EVENT HONORS STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

DREXEL HILL – Excellence in teaching and student achievement in Delaware County was celebrated when Franklin Mint Federal Credit Union and the Delaware County Intermediate Unit presented the 2009 Partners in Learning Banquet at the Corporate Events Center at Drexelbrook on April 23.

The county's premier education recognition event honored all 200 members of the 2008-2009 Delco Hi-Q academic quiz competition, including the elite 21-member All-Delco Hi-Q Team. Cash awards were made to the three top-scoring teams of the competition's 61<sup>st</sup> season, and a former Hi-Q team member was inducted posthumously into the Delco Hi-Q Hall of Honor.

In addition, 18 outstanding teachers -- one from each of the county's 15 public school districts, one from the Intermediate Unit, one from a non-public elementary or middle school and one from a non-public high school -- received the prestigious 2009 Excellence in Teaching Award. The credit union, in partnership with the IU, established the award to recognize Delaware County's exceptional, innovative educators. The award also raises public awareness of the valuable contributions local teachers make to the educational system and the strong, positive impact they have on their students.

Teachers were nominated by parents, colleagues or students. Each honoree received \$500, a commemorative keepsake and \$1,000 to benefit his or her school.

They included Janet Barcaro, Interboro; Frances Bordogna, Haverford; Aidan Brett, Springfield; Lauren Conway, Marple Newtown; LuAnn Cosby, Ridley; Katie Durant, Rose Tree Media; Stephanie Farmer, William Penn; Gary Vetre, Upper Darby; Jennifer McDougall, Penn-Delco; Edward Rayer, Chester Upland; Michael Rayer, Southeast Delco; Gail Rudolph, Garnet Valley, Catherine Stambaugh, Wallingford Swarthmore and Lauren Wetten, Chichester. Also Jeanne Cashwell-Willert and Donna Kowal, both from the Archdiocese of Philadelphia; Rodman Haseltime, The Christian Academy; and Jennifer Mabrey, Delaware County Intermediate Unit.

Delco Hi-Q's three top winners of the academic quiz contest's 2008-2009 season were awarded cash prizes for their schools. For placing third in the final academic face-off last month, Radnor earned \$2,000. Haverford's second place finish won \$2,500, while Penncrest received \$3,000 for its 2009 championship. It also won the right to display the revolving Donna Zerby Trophy for a year.

"This dinner is the culmination of a great season, and we're looking forward the same next year," said Penncrest team member Katie Ferguson of Upper Providence, who'll co-captain next season's team with classmate Jennifer Walker of Media.

Penn Wood's team was named Most Improved for its 302-percent increase in academic ability over the previous year. Its \$1,000 award was donated by the Delaware County Chamber of Commerce and presented by Delco Hi-Q Director Rick Durante, FMFCU's Vice President of Education. Durante commended all the honorees, both those who teach and those who learn.

Master of Ceremonies was award-winning actor Tom McCarthy, Delco Hi-Q quizmaster since the 1978-1979 season. He was inducted in 2006 into the Delco Hi-Q Hall of Honor, located in the lobby of the IU building in Morton.

This year's inductee was the late Dr. Ronald Scott, who had a distinguished career as an acclaimed scientist, physician and humanitarian before his tragic death in 2004. He competed on Interboro's 1958 and 1959 Hi-Q teams and was Valedictorian of the Class of 1959.

In accepting the honor on behalf of his family, Dr. Thomas Scott of San Diego gave a moving tribute to his younger brother by citing his lasting legacy in terms of his countless contributions to the lives of others.

*Daily Times* Editor Phil Heron and FMFCU President/CEO John Unangst. presented plaques to 21 members of the All-Delco Hi-Q, one member from each school that competed in the 2008-2009 season.

They are Lorrie Damerau, Academy of Notre Dame de Namur; Ashley Le, Academy Park; Toby Fabisiak, Archbishop Carroll; Samuel A. Pichard IV; Cardinal O'Hara; Lionel McIntire, Chester; Alycia Logue, Chichester; Jonathan M. Sharp, Delaware County Christian School; Stephen Ciarerocchi, Garnet Valley; Rachel Chang, Haverford; Alex Oxner, Interboro; Wei Wang, Marple Newtown; Jordan Perez, Monsignor Bonner.

Also Aaron Gravely, Penn Wood; Katherine Davis, Penncrest; Huayu Liu, Radnor; Krista Spuglio, Ridley; David Smith, Springfield; Meng Zhang, Strath Haven; Nicole Lock, Sun Valley, Daniel Garner, The Christian Academy; and Sarah Choudhary, Upper Darby.

Heron noted the recognition given to educators and student scholars fulfills his long-held desire to promote academic excellence in a way similar to athletic ability.

Also honored at the banquet were five student winners of the 2009 John D. Unangst Scholarship, an annual award established several years ago to honor Unangst's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the credit union. Receiving a \$1,500 scholarship were Scott Hartzell from Interboro High, Sydney Pauline from Country Day School of the Sacred Heart, Monica McCaffrey from Cardinal O'Hara and James Helm and Joseph Hooker, both from Penncrest. Hooker was on Penncrest's 2009 Delco Hi-Q championship team.

Participants in FMFCU's student operated branch programs were honored as well. Interboro was recognized as Student Branch of the Year for showing outstanding growth and performance, and Joanne Goldsborough, teacher at Upper Darby High, was named 2009 FMFCU Financial Literacy Advocate.

In addition, Bethany Cheezum from Interboro, who chairs the Student Branch Council, was named Outstanding Student Leader and awarded \$500.

Along with the IU, FMFCU and FMFCU Foundation. sponsors of the event that drew more than 500 attendees were State Financial Network, *Delaware County Daily Times*, Delaware County Chamber of Commerce, Kimberly-Clark Chester Operation, Enterprise Rent-a-Car Foundation, Neumann College and the Pennsylvania State Teachers Association Southeastern Region and employees of FMFCU and SFN..

For the past five years, FMFCU has been one of two primary sponsors of the nation's long-running academic quiz competition for high school scholars. The other is Kimberly-Clark Chester Operations.

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