



Washington County businesses contributed \$36,750 to the Challenge Program Inc. to encourage student achievement during the 2008-2009 school year. The program partners with businesses to educate students on career opportunities while also motivating them to excel in the classroom. Students who excel in the areas of most improved academically, best attendance, community service and best overall grade-point average will receive a \$250 award. The total amount of awards in each school is \$3,000. Participating schools and their business ambassadors include Bentworth, Burgettstown, Bethlehem-Center, Charleroi and California high schools, Progeny Systems; Canon-McMillan High School, Auma Actuators and CentiMark Corp.; Mon Valley Career & Technology Center, Dyno Nobel, Model Cleaners and Mon Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce; Ringgold High School, Charleroi Chiropractic Pain and Wellness Center and Solar Power Industries; Trinity High School and Western Area Career & Technology Center, Range Resources; and Washington High School, Dynamet Inc. Participants include, front, Debra Keefer, Mon Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce, left, and Mary Drelisak, the Challenge Program Inc.; and back row, Robert Lazzari, Solar Power Industries; Dan LaCarte, Model Cleaners; and John Mackay, Progeny Systems.