

4-23-04

Cargill pledges \$15G to scholarship fund

Cargill Meat Solutions, formerly Excel Corp., has made a \$15,000 commitment to the Greater Hazleton Civic Partnership's Scholarship Program. The company, in the Humboldt Industrial Park, has committed to fund one scholarship to a deserving student for the next five years. Students will need to be pursuing a two- or four-year degree in a technical program at an accredited school. Ideal courses of study would include: Industrial Maintenance Technology, Computer Science, Electrical/Electronics Technology, Mechanical Technology or similar related programs that would fit Cargill's ongoing need for qualified technical personnel to maintain their highly sophisticated production equipment.

In return, Cargill would offer paid summer internships to the recipient during the course of their studies with the strong possibility of a full-time job upon graduation, providing that the candidate and Cargill are suited for each other. The candidate will agreed to maintain employment in the Hazleton area for three years after graduation.

Coupled with last year's grant from the St. Pierre Foundation, the Civic Partnership is now in a position to be able to award at least two scholarships annually for the next five years. With these two successes, it is hoped that other local industries will embrace the partnership's efforts to increase the number of annual scholarships so that additional students can gain an education in courses of study that will be suitable to fill the needs of today's sophisticated manufacturing community in the Hazleton area and help prevent "brain drain" from our area.

Because of this pledge, the Civic Partnership will extend its application deadline to May 10 for this year's applications. Information on both the scholarship and on contributing to the scholarship fund can be obtained from Bob Skulsky at the Greater Hazleton Area Civic Partnership at 455-1508.