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Schuylkill firm donates \$1,000 for scholarship

By JIM DING
Staff Writer

to work in the Hazleton area can apply for the partnership's scholarship.

Again this year, the partnership is offering \$6,000 - \$3,000 for two years - to any local student who wants to pursue an education that will match a job need in the Hazleton area. The deadline to apply is Friday.

The scholarship is open to people who want to pursue a one-year, two-year, or four-year program.

One-year programs for which there is a demand include: industrial maintenance technician, manufacturing technology, electronics technology, computer technology, and industrial technology.

Two-year programs that there are jobs for include: Computer engineering, manufacturing engineering and production technology.

Any four-year program related to those disciplines would also apply.

Last year, the partnership expanded the eligible courses of study to the medical field, because of the shortage of nurses and technical people.

Other jobs added to the list are those available at the Tolyhanna Army Depot in Monroe County.

Candidates must reside within the boundaries of the Hazleton Area School District, MMI and the Wearholy Area School District, and also Marian High School in Hometown.

Applications are due Friday with an anticipated June 1 notification.

Those interested can apply by contacting Skulsky at 465-1500 or via the Internet at www.hazletonchamber.org.

A question over a Greater Hazleton Area Civic Partnership scholarship has led to a Schuylkill County company contributing to the program.

Bob Skulsky, the partnership's executive director, said a question was raised over whether a student, Lucas Cusatis, should pay back one of the program's two-year, \$6,000 scholarships.

The question was raised because the student, during school, had taken a job with a Schuylkill County firm that is out of the Hazleton area.

One of the requirements to get the scholarship is that the student promises to stay and work in the area for at least three years after graduation.

But the scholarship committee decided that since the student was able to find employment with a high-tech firm - and still lives in the Hazleton area - he could keep the scholarship.

The dialogue with the company, Ashland Technologies, of Hegins, led its president, Bill Wydra Jr., to donate \$1,000 to the program.

"I've been looking for something like this for a long time," Wydra told partnership members at a recent meeting. "I think it's a great idea. I'm very impressed with this organization. We've been trying to get something like this going in Schuylkill County. It truly does make a difference. Lucas has become a special person in our organization."

The scholarship



Bill Wydra Jr., right, president of Ashland Technologies, Hegins, presents a \$1,000 check to Bob Skulsky, seated at left, executive director of the Greater Hazleton Area Civic Partnership, for the group's scholarship program. Also shown, standing from left are scholarship committee members Dan Guldish, John Madden and Donna Palermo.

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