

City man presented scholarship to PSU Hazleton

By **JIM DINO**

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A Hazleton man is getting help completing his technical education because he promised to use his education here for at least three years.

The Greater Hazleton Area Civic Partnership's Scholarship Committee handed out its second scholarship Wednesday night at the Academic Awards Banquet coordinated by the Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce.

Gordon Hauze, a student in the two-year electronics engineering technology program at Penn State University Hazleton Campus, received a \$6,000 scholarship for two years.

Jack St. Pierre, chairman of the scholarship committee, said Hauze is not the typical college student.

"Gordon decided to go back to school after working in the maintenance and technology fields," St. Pierre said. "He has a full-time job as the single parent of two teen-age daughters, Jacqueline and Amanda, who are here with him tonight."

St. Pierre said the scholarships come with a caveat – the recipient, by the rules established by the committee for the scholarship – must agree to remain in the Hazleton area and work for three years.

That's why the scholarship



JIM SEWASTYNOWICZ/Standard-Speaker

Gordon Hauze, second from right, was recently awarded the Greater Hazleton Area Civic Partnership Scholarship during the 28th annual Chamber of Commerce Academic Awards Banquet. Representing the civic partnership are, from left: Bob Skulsky, director of civic partnership; Jack St. Pierre, chairman of the civic partnership scholarship committee; Hauze and Terry Moran-Bauder, chairwoman of the board of civic partnership.

program was established in the first place, St. Pierre said.

"Four years ago, we got the idea to award a scholarship to young people taking courses of a technical nature, not necessarily a four-year degree, but it could be," he said. "For two years, we solicited funds, and made our first award last year."

St. Pierre said the reason the committee focuses on technical careers is that's what local industry is begging for.

There are immediate job openings for people with such training and education.

"Parents, your children may not want to go to school for four years.

"There are numerous job openings for people who like to work with their hands.

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Scholarship

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"We'll give someone a scholarship as long as they agree to come back to the Hazleton area after they complete their education and work for three years."

But, St. Pierre said in order for the program to continue, local business and industry has to come through with donations – so the scholarship fund can eventually become economically self-sustaining.

"We'd love to be able to give four or five more scholarships," he said. "We are trying to continue to fund this, but business and industry are always being hit from all sides for funding. It is difficult to pick and choose what to donate to. Talk to your boss or a business owner, and try to get them to contribute, so we can continue to give one or more scholarships in the future."

In addition to awarding the scholarship and honoring the top 60 high school students in the area, six senior high school students who served as honorary student directors on the Board of Directors of CAN DO Inc., during 2001-2002 were recognized by Arthur Tarone, CAN DO treasurer.

They were: Ashley Marie McBrearty, Bishop Hafey High School; Joy Gallagher, Kara Licurgo and Jennifer Tomashunis, Hazleton Area High School; Lee Ann Palubinsky, MMI and Theresa D'Andrea, Weatherly Area.

