



Jesse Yencho, front left, and Timothy Burger, front middle, received the Greater Hazleton Civic Partnership Scholarships at the Chamber of Commerce Annual Academic Achievement Banquet Monday night. The scholarship is used to encourage students to stay in the Hazleton area after graduation. Attending the presentation were, front row: Yencho, Burger, Bob Skulsky, director of the Greater Hazleton Civic Partnership. Back row: Shawn Mott, representing Cargill; Jack St. Pierre, chairman of the scholarship committee; and John Madden, Penn State University-Hazleton CEO.

Civic partnership awards two scholarships

By **JIM DINO**

jimdino@standardspeaker.com

6-19-04

The Greater Hazleton Area Civic Partnership has awarded two scholarships to students who have agreed to return to the area to work after they graduate.

That is the purpose of the Partnership's Scholarship program, which got a boost from Cargill Meat Solutions, which has committed to funding one scholarship beginning next year.

Timothy Burger of Drums and Jesse Yencho of Weston are this year's recipients. The scholarship they each receive is \$3,000 for two years, for a total of \$6,000.

Burger, whose family owns Burger's Farms in Drums, is studying for an associate's degree in heating, ventilating and air conditioning (HVAC) at Penn College.

The 2004 Hazleton Area Career Center and Hazleton Area High School graduate works for Lonzetta Plumbing and his family's farm.

"Living in the Hazleton area, and working on my family's farm, has given me an appreciation of this valley," Burger said in his essay. There are many reasons why I wish to return to the Hazleton area after I receive my degree, including the main reason that my family is here and their business is here."

Yencho will study toward an associate's degree in diesel technology at Penn College.

Yencho, who graduated with Burger, is employed at Highway Equipment.

"The main reason I want to come back is that I was born and raised in this area, and

both my parents have lived here all of their lives. I like the area, the people, the mountains, the change of seasons and the different cultures. I love what I do, I enjoy being busy, and want to continue to learn more and more challenging ways to work on all of the new technical controls."

Shawn Mott, human resources director for Cargill, in the Humboldt Industrial Park, explained why the firm thought the program was important.

"Cargill is truly pleased to help fund the Scholarship program," Mott said. "It recognized what this Scholarship is doing, not only helping students further their education and stay in this area, but also providing for local businesses the professional employees they need to continue to operate and expand."

Jack St. Pierre, chairman of the Scholarship Committee, thanked Cargill for their contribution and interest.

"We appreciate and thank Cargill for this help to our program that will cover the cost of funding one student for the next five years," St. Pierre said.

Bob Skulsky, the Partnership's executive director, said funding activity for the 2005 round of scholarships will begin in September, and asks local industries to "please help this vital program for our area."

Volunteers are also needed on the committee. The group is prepared to visit with, and brief local industry at their convenience.

Any business or industry interested in a presentation should call Skulsky at 455-1508.