

# Greater Hazleton Area Civic Partnership committee awards two scholarships

■ The scholarship winners agreed to stay in the Hazleton area to work for three years after graduating from college.

By **JIM DINO**

jimdino@standardspeaker.com

Two students who recently graduated from high school will be getting some help with college.

The Greater Hazleton Area Civic Partnership's Scholarship Committee has awarded scholarships worth \$6,000 for two years of study to Michael Budda and William Yenkevich Jr.

Budda, a 2003 graduate of Bishop Hafey High School, will be pursuing a bachelor's degree in engineering. He is the son of David and Maryann Budda, and lives in West Hazleton with his parents and brother, David.

Yenkevich, a 2002 graduate of Bishop Hafey, is a freshman at Penn State pursuing a degree in information systems technology. He lives in Hazleton with his parents, William Sr. and Carmella, and sisters, Elizabeth and Christina.

In order to qualify for the scholarships, the winners must agree to stay in the area and work for three years after graduation.

The awards bring to four the number of scholarships the Civic Partnership has awarded since the program



Two local students receive congratulations for winning two-year scholarships worth \$6,000 from the Greater Hazleton Area Civic Partnership. William Yenkevich Jr., far left, is congratulated by Jack St. Pierre, chairman of the scholarship committee, and David Budda, far right, is congratulated by Bob Skulsky, executive director of the Partnership.

began three years ago.

The Partnership came up with the scholarship program to help stop the "Brain Drain" by keeping professionals and technicians in this area.

Jack St. Pierre, the chairman of the scholarship committee, said the "Brain Drain" this area is experiencing is hurting local industries, because there are not enough technical personnel available to keep the industries in our area, and to attract new, high-tech industries.

When the scholarship program began, the Partnership surveyed local industries to find the types of positions that were hard to fill from the local job market. Once these types of skills were identified, the committee started raising money by soliciting local industry, individuals and foundations.

For more information on the scholarship program, or to get a 2004 scholarship application, contact Bob Skulsky, executive director of the Partnership, at 455-1508.