



ELLEN CONNELLEY Staff Photographer

Terry Moran-Bauder, left, chairman of the board for the Greater Hazleton Civic Partnership, presents academic awards to Ryan Parise, second from left, Mike Sabo, center, and Sam Merola, second from right, during an awards banquet recently. At right is Jark St. Pierre, chairman of the school committee.

Greater Hazleton Civic Partnership awards scholarships to three students

The Greater Hazleton Area Civic Partnership Scholarship Program awarded two-year scholarships totaling \$30,000 to three deserving students pursuing technical degree programs at the annual Chamber of Commerce Academic Awards banquet held at Genetti's Best Western.

This year's recipients of \$3,000 annual scholarships are:

■ **Ryan Parise**, son of Frank and Mary Beth Parise of Hazleton.

He is a 2006 graduate of Hazleton Area High School and is pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in medical imaging/radiology at Wilkes Barre General Hospital and Bloomsburg University.

■ **Michael Sabo**, a 2006 graduate of Hazleton Area High School, will be pursuing a BS in mechanical engineering technology at Penn State University.

He is the son of Thomas and Donna Sabo of Beaver Meadows.

■ **Sammy Merola**, a 2006 graduate of Hazleton Area High School who will be studying electrical engineering at Penn State University in the fall.

He is the son of Sam Merola of Hazleton and Rose Brosious of Freeland.

These three awards bring the total to 14

scholarships awarded by the Civic Partnership since the program began in 2000.

Students receiving the scholarship must maintain a 2.75 grade-point average and must sign a binding contract with the Partnership to return to work in the Greater Hazleton Area or Tobyhanna Army Depot for a minimum of three years after graduating.

Courses of study may be either two- or four-year programs but the scholarship is only renewable for two years since most technology programs are two years in length.

The program is intended to help to slow the exodus of talented young people from the Hazleton area once they receive their education and at the same time, help to provide trained technicians and engineering technology graduates to the industries in the area.

Financed by support from area industries and foundations, the program continuously needs additional financial supporters each year so that the program can continue to prosper.

To date, nearly \$85,000 has been awarded to 14 recipients. Anyone interested in participating in the program, or anyone seeking additional information, is asked to call Bob Skulsky, executive director of the Civic Partnership, at 466-1605.