

# Challenge Program presented at NCHS

By Kasey Miller  
of Mainline Newspapers

Former Cambria County Commissioner and Community Outreach Specialist Kathy Holtzman and Executive Director of Business and Education Barbara Grandinetti along with Northern Cambria business owners Sam Valenty and Lou Monborne visited Northern Cambria High School Friday to share with students employment and entrepreneurial opportunities in the area and to provide them incentive to be their best selves.

The Challenge Program was developed in 2004 by Daniel T. Perkins, chairman of the Challenge Program Board, and is geared to be a bridge between high school students and the business community by providing incentives for students to have a successful high school career. Specific goals for students include improving academic performance, maintaining a near perfect attendance record, being active in the community and

achieving an excellent academic record.

"This program was developed by Dan Perkins because of his interest in Cambria County. Although he no longer lives in the area, this is his brain wave back to us," said Holtzman.

"This program is not just about money," added Grandinetti. "It is also about exposing your students to the jobs available in Cambria County. You no longer have to go out of the area to find a good job."

Candidates for the awards are selected by school officials.

At the assembly, Holtzman noted to students that the rewards are without strings and can be used at the student's discretion.

In a written release Perkins said of the programs goals that, "It remains our focus to demonstrate to students through experiential learning that hard work always yields success and that success is achieved the same way in the classroom as it is in the boardroom."



Kathy Holtzman, Community Outreach Specialist for the Challenge Program, speaks to Northern Cambria High School students on Friday. Photo by Kasey Miller.