

Program award winner to lead advisory board

This year, Jasmine Narcisse will divide her school day between classes and work.

Narcisse, a senior at Greater Johnstown High School, has accepted an internship with The Challenge Program Inc. for the 2008-09 school year.

Narcisse's responsibilities as an intern will include serving as the first president of the program's Student Advisory Board, a group of 16 student leaders drawn from eight area high schools whose responsibility is to provide feedback about the program, as well as to maximize its presence within their schools.

"We're thrilled to have Jasmine on board," Executive Director Barbara Grandinetti said. "Because our program is geared toward high school students, it's important for us to maintain a fresh perspective about what it's like to be a high school student today. Student interns provide us with that perspective."

Narcisse served as a member of TCP's Student Advisory Board last year and was an active participant in the student networking portion of Johnstown's Showcase for Commerce in May.



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Since 2004, TCP has provided students with the opportunity to network with local businessmen during the annual Showcase for Commerce event.

The event helps to promote one of TCP's guiding missions: Building a bridge between high school students and the business community.

Despite being a student at Greater Johnstown, Narcisse acknowledged that prior to last year's Showcase she had been unaware of the job opportunities available to her in the Johnstown area.

"I was really surprised to see how many businesses are in Johnstown," she said, "because (as a high school student) you don't really know."

Narcisse officially began her

internship with TCP in mid-September, and plans to hold her first Student Advisory Board meeting in late October.

"I'm confident I can use my leadership skills to form a better advisory board," she said.

"I'm currently working on some ideas to get TCP's name out into the schools on a more consistent basis."

Narcisse also is the recipient of TCP's 2008 Most Community Service Award.

She is an active member of Key Club, a student organization with close ties to the Kiwanis Club.

This article is part of a human interest series that will feature past recipients of The Challenge Program's four award categories: Most Improved, Best G.P.A., Most Community Service and Best Attendance. The Challenge Program is a nonprofit organization located in Johnstown that provides financial incentives to students for successes they achieve while still in high school. The Challenge Program also aims to provide a bridge between high school students and the local business community.