

Program rewards students

Thomas Fleming, superintendent of Richland School District, said that his school's involvement with The Challenge Program Inc. has been beneficial to students in numerous ways.

"Each of the Challenge Program's incentive categories are important because every student knows he or she has the potential to win," Fleming said.

The Challenge Program Inc. provides a \$250 cash incentive to students for achievement in four areas - community service, academic excellence, academic improvement and attendance - in the sophomore, junior and senior grade levels.

Fleming said that the best part of The Challenge Program is that it acknowledges and rewards students for doing their best.

"The program recognizes students for accomplishments, such as performing at a high level academically, attending school every day and contributing to community service projects," Fleming said. "We have students who volunteer with the fire department, Boy Scouts and a variety of religious organizations."

For those students who may need the extra push academically, Fleming believes that the monetary incentives offered by the program are great motivational tools that encourage improvement. The rewards help create good habits in students.

"Many students are motivated by the monetary prizes," Fleming said. "Our students become aware of the program in the seventh grade and see upperclassmen winning. Each year, The Challenge Program reinforces their message to remind students what they could win."

Fleming said that another reason The Challenge Program



ROSE WAGNER
The Challenge Program

is successful in his school is because the program is always looking to improve by developing new ways to support high school students in their education.

"Recently, they have explored new opportunities to partner with organizations affiliated with teaching civic service and financial literacy in schools," Fleming said. "The Challenge Program is constantly seeking ways to enhance their mission."

Fleming also said that the students and school district cherish the support they are receiving from The Challenge Program and from their local community.

The Challenge Program awards at Richland High School are sponsored by First Summit Bank.

"The Richland school district truly appreciates First Summit Bank's support for sponsoring our Challenge Program financial incentives for the students," Fleming said.

The Challenge Program Inc. is a nonprofit organization that partners with business to motivate high school students both in and out of the classroom. This partnership creates good habits in students and provides business with tangible results on their investment. For more information about The Challenge Program Inc. please visit the Web site at www.tcpinc.org or call 533-7401.