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## The Challenge Program thanks area businesses

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JOHNSTOWN — The Challenge Program on Wednesday thanked members of the business community who have helped the charitable organization carry out its mission of motivating and rewarding high school students.

Businesses combined to contribute \$64,000 during the 2013-2014 academic year. The money was awarded to Cambria County students who achieved success in attendance, academic improvement, academic excellence, community service, and science, technology, engineering and mathematics studies.

Representatives from The Challenge Program held a ceremony at Sunnehanna Country Club in Westmont for those businesses: 1st Summit Bank, G.A.P. Federal Credit Union, Schools Federal Credit Union, S&T Bank, Wessel & Co., Martin-Baker, Carpenter Financial Services, Highmark, Miller Motor Co., Miners Medical Center of Conemaugh Health System, Mount Aloysius College and Concurrent Technologies Corp.

“We’re saying thank you for your belief in the students,” The Challenge Program’s manager of program development, Mark Ziegenfuss, said.

This is the first year the ceremony has taken place.

“Hopefully we can continue to do this on an annual basis,” Ziegenfuss said.

Several business leaders presented a symbolic \$64,000 check during the ceremony.

*Dave Sutor is a reporter for The Tribune-Democrat. Follow him on Twitter @Dave\_Sutor.*