

FIRST-EVER ALL DELCO HI-Q TEAM TO BE GIVEN ALL-STAR RECOGNITION

The selection process is underway to create the first-ever All Delco Hi-Q Team for 2005, which will include a student from each of 21 public, parochial and private high schools in Delaware County that participated in this year's Delco Hi-Q academic quiz competition.

Students chosen for the All Delco Hi-Q Team will be honored at the "Partners in Education Dinner" on Thursday, May 19 at the Corporate Events Center at Drexelbrook in Drexel Hill. The event is being presented by The Foundation of the Delaware County Chamber and the Delaware County Intermediate Unit, with Franklin Mint Federal Credit Union (FMFCU) being the primary sponsor. FMFCU was one of two primary corporate sponsors of the 2005 Delco Hi-Q season.

Special guest speaker at the dinner will be Alex Trebek, host of TV's popular "Jeopardy!" quiz show seen weekdays at 7 p.m. on Philadelphia Channel 6-ABC.

The first-ever dinner also will recognize all participants in this year's Delco Hi-Q competition, along with the first, second and third place winning teams. At a final competition on March 15 at Strath Haven High School, the host school won the 2005 championship. Penncrest came in second and Garnet Valley placed third.

Additionally, the All-Delco Hi-Q Team will receive well-deserved recognition through a special two-page spread in the *Delaware County Daily Times*, expected to be published on Sunday, May 15. It will include a photograph of each all-star team member and a summary of his or her accomplishments. The photos and descriptions also will be entered into the Hi-Q web site: www.delcohiq.org

Selection of a student to represent his or her school on the "best of the best" team will be made by the school's Delco Hi-Q coach or faculty advisor. To define the requirements for inclusion on the team, an advisory board of five faculty advisors has been formed: Bob Young of Springfield High, Deb Bonder of Marple Newtown, Mark Linkins of Strath Haven, Thom Houghton of the Delaware County Christian School and John Cole of Chichester.

The concept of an All-Delco Hi-Q Team and a dinner to celebrate scholastic achievement came from FMFCU President/CEO John Unangst and Harry Jamison, Executive Director of the Delaware County Intermediate Unit. Both men believe that excellence in academics should receive the same recognition as athletic performance.

"We want to give academics equal weight with athletics," said Unangst, pointing out that the long-overdue evening event that focuses on education will be on the same level as one focusing on sports.

"In the past," said Jamison, "there have been yearly Hi-Q luncheons. That was very nice, but John and I felt that these students should be honored at a dinner with their parents and others present. This is a wonderful opportunity to show what's good about today's youth. Too much is said about negative things. This is something very positive."

Initially, an All-Delco Hi-Q Team was to be patterned after the *Daily Times'* All-Delco sports team, which includes a first team, second team and honorable mention. However, the advisory board believes it's more appropriate and meaningful to recognize one member from each participating school's Delco Hi-Q team--- an individual who represents the best of that school's team.

The four criteria for selection to the team are academic achievement, contribution to Hi-Q, school activities and community involvement, with no specific percentage given to any of the four. That's because some students cannot be as involved as others in their community or school because they work, care for siblings or have other after-school commitments.

Many Hi-Q participants aren't necessarily their school's highest ranking or most academically proficient students. Rather, they're Hi-Q team members who excel through tremendous personal effort and study. Still other Hi-Q participants are the backbone and strength of their team by sheer enthusiasm and willingness to help their teammates.

Said *Daily Times* Editor Phil Heron of the newspaper's support in publicly recognizing Delco Hi-Q students, "The *Daily Times* has long had a reputation for excellence in covering local high school sports. For a long time, I've wanted to make that sort of presence on academics, to give the same emphasis to education."

Bonder, Marple Newtown's Hi-Q coach for the past six years, is excited about the upcoming premier education event of the year and what it means to students.

"It's great that so many people want to recognize these students not only for their Hi-Q involvement, but to spotlight all they give back to their school and community," she said.

Cole, who's in his 26th year as Chichester's Hi-Q coach and was on Sharon Hill High School's Hi-Q team in 1969, is equally enthusiastic about the event.

"I'm thrilled that these 'academic athletes' are being honored," he said. "Whether they won or not, they represented their schools well. They studied and prepared on their own, worked with their teammates and balanced the time demands of a heavy load of honors and AP courses with demanding but rewarding extracurricular activities like Hi-Q."

Sponsors of the 2005 "Partners in Education Dinner," listed by level of support, are FMFCU (Summa Cum Laude); ENDO Pharmaceuticals and the *Delaware County Daily Times* (Magna Cum Laude); Crozer-Keystone Health Systems, First Keystone Bank and Sovereign Bank (Valedictorian); Delaware County Community College, Riddle Health System, Wawa, American Ref-Fuel, Sun East Federal Credit Union, Neumann College and PECO Energy (Distinguished Honor Roll); and Swarthmore College, Comcast, Saint Joseph's University and Temple University (Honor Roll).

The sponsors' generous support allows all participants in this year's Delco Hi-Q ---a total of 210 student scholars -- and their faculty advisors, to attend the dinner free of charge.

For ticket information, visit www.delcohiq.org and click on "Dinner." To order tickets, call FMFCU at 610-325-5100 or The Foundation of the Delaware County Chamber at 610-565-3677.

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