

## NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT: Northeast Pennsylvania Manufacturers & Employers  
Council, 570-622-0940

### **MANUFACTURERS AND EMPLOYERS COUNCIL TO HOLD YES RECOGNITION BREAKFAST**

POTTSVILLE, Pa.—89 students from 7 districts in Schuylkill and Luzerne counties will be honored as graduates of the YES (Your Employability Skills) Certificate Program at the YES Recognition Breakfast on Friday, May 15 from 8:30—10:00 a.m. at the Pottsville Club. There are currently 234 students enrolled in the program from Blue Mountain, Crestwood, Mahanoy Area, Minersville Area, Pine Grove Area, Pottsville Area, and Schuylkill Haven Area.

“These students are serious about preparing for life after graduation when they enroll in the YES Program,” said Darlene J. Robbins, MAEC President. “There are strict guidelines for completion, and those students who successfully meet the criteria demonstrate a commitment to their futures.”

YES is a 120-hour, year-round elective course currently offered to high school seniors. The program was originally developed for adults in York County in 1996, with the high school phase beginning in York County in 2001. Respectively, Schuylkill and Luzerne counties are the third and fourth regions in Pennsylvania to offer YES. The purpose of the program is to develop and enhance students’ basic job skill knowledge and to prepare them for employment. The students must also meet the program criteria in order to receive a certificate of completion at the end of the school year. The student must be receiving a high school diploma; have reading and math skills at a ninth grade level; achieve a score of 21 out of 50 on the Wonderlic Personnel Test; successfully pass a 6-panel drug screening, and demonstrate attendance of 95 percent or better. Students also visit 4 area companies to learn more about their business operations, available career paths within that industry, and the skills needed to perform particular jobs.

North Schuylkill, Tamaqua Area, and Shenandoah Valley have signed on to offer YES beginning in the 2009-2010 school year, as well as Hazleton Area in Luzerne County.

Area businesses are invited learn more about YES and honor the students from Northeast Pennsylvania who have successfully completed the program. Cost for the breakfast is \$20.00. To register, please call the Northeast PA Manufacturers and Employers Council office at 570-622-0940.

The YES Certificate Program is administered by the Northeast PA Manufacturers and Employers Council, a 501(c)(3) organization. It is an initiative of the Schuylkill Workforce Partnership, comprised of the Northeast PA Manufacturers and Employers Association (MAEA), Pennsylvania CareerLink, PPL Corp., Schuylkill Chamber of Commerce, Schuylkill County Commissioners, Schuylkill Economic Development Corporation (SEDCO), and Schuylkill Intermediate Unit 29, and the Luzerne Workforce Partnership, comprised of CANDO; Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce; Greater Pittston Chamber of Commerce; Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Business & Industry; Luzerne County Business & Education Partnership; Luzerne Intermediate Unit #18; Luzerne/Schuylkill Workforce Investment Board; Northeast Pennsylvania Manufacturers and Employers Association; Pennsylvania CareerLink Luzerne County at Hazleton; Pennsylvania CareerLink Luzerne County at Wilkes-Barre; Partners in Education (PIE), and PPL Corporation.

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