

NEWS RELEASE

FOR RELEASE: Immediately
DATE: September 7, 2006
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Y.E.S. PROGRAM PRESENTED AT PRINCIPALS' MEETING

POTTSVILLE, Pa.—The Y.E.S. (Your Employability Skills) Program, a new initiative focused on addressing the shortfall of qualified job applicants in Schuylkill County, will be on the agenda for the next secondary school principals' meeting on Thursday, September 21 at Schuylkill Haven Area High School, beginning at 9 a.m. Robert Kellerman, project director for the Y.E.S. program in York County, will offer information and testimonials from educational providers who have offered the Y.E.S. program in both Schuylkill and York counties. The Y.E.S. program officially launched in Schuylkill County on August 28 at Schuylkill Haven Area High School and there is high interest among the remaining schools to offer the program.

Y.E.S. is a 120-hour elective program with an in-depth curriculum focusing on various aspects of the workforce—written and verbal communication, listening skills, team building, problem solving, quality control, basic math, blueprint reading, and tours of local industries. Students gain knowledge that will apply to a wide range of industries—from manufacturing and healthcare to real estate and insurance.

Schuylkill Haven High School currently has 17 students enrolled in the new program. Graduates of the program are “preferred” when applying for both post-secondary educational and employer-sponsored training programs. Employer support is crucial to the program's success. A list of employers who support and endorse Y.E.S. is currently being compiled for distribution to students and county schools, and as part of the course curriculum, the students will be touring a variety of businesses and industries, which will help to educate the students on the careers that are available in Schuylkill County.

The Y.E.S. Certificate Program is a collaborative effort of the Schuylkill Workforce Partnership, consisting of the Northeast PA Manufacturers and Employers Association (MAEA), Pennsylvania CareerLink, PPL Electric Utilities, Schuylkill

Chamber of Commerce, Schuylkill County Commissioners, Schuylkill Economic Development Corporation, and Schuylkill Intermediate Unit No. 29.

For more information on how your company can participate in Y.E.S. initiatives, please contact Sara Hodon, Director of Workforce Development, at 570-622-0940 or by email at shodon@schuylkillworkforce.com.

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