



11/04/2006

Schools offer job skills class

From STAFF REPORTS

Pottsville Area and Mahanoy Area high schools have signed on to offer the Your Employability Skills Certificate Program, a workforce readiness program targeted at high school seniors, beginning in the 2007-08 school year.

YES helps students develop basic job skills that employers in business and industry require.

The program is a 120-hour, one-credit elective course covering topics like communication, active listening, goal setting, problem solving, general safety, substance abuse, financial planning and time management.

As part of the course requirements, students must pass a six-panel drug screening.

YES began in 1996 as an adult program in York County, with the high school program launching in 2001. Schuylkill County is the third in Pennsylvania to offer the program, along with York and Erie counties. Schuylkill Haven Area High School was the first school in the county to implement the program.

“YES has a proven track record of success, and we expect to have the same results with it here in Schuylkill County,” James Gallagher, superintendent of Pottsville Area School District, said. “We support any program that will help our students obtain good employment opportunities.”

He said the program will help students get a “competitive advantage” over other applicants when they enter the workforce.

“We think it’s a great opportunity for all students, not just those going into the workforce, but those going to college or to trade schools. These are skills that all students will need,” Charlotte Golden, Mahanoy Area High School principal, said.

The YES Certificate Program is a collaborative effort of the Schuylkill Workforce Partnership, consisting of the Northeast PA Manufacturers and Employers Association, Pennsylvania CareerLink, PPL Electric Utilities Corp., Schuylkill Chamber of Commerce, Schuylkill County commissioners, Schuylkill Economic Development Corporation and Schuylkill Intermediate Unit 29.

For more information on YES, contact Sara Hodon, director of Workforce Development, at 622-0940, by e-mail at shodon@schuylkillworkforce.com, or online at www.schuylkillworkforce.com.

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