

Local business invests in youth

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Partners for Education & Business

On behalf of Partners for Education & Business, I am writing this letter as a thank-you to the over 200 business and community organizations that are supporting our efforts to promote The Partnership for a Work Ready Syracuse.

PEB coordinated over 16,000 individual career exploration experiences designed to increase the skills, attitudes, knowledge and behaviors necessary for success.

In the last year, we have found the response from local employers to be overwhelmingly supportive of the need for career preparation of the youth and adults in our community by giving of their time, talent and treasure.

There are far too many employers to mention, but certainly a few do stand out. For example, Laboratory Alliance of CNY, the winner of PEB's 2008 Business of the Year, is continually promoting their need to recruit and hire qualified lab technicians and other related jobs.

To help increase awareness of the job opportunities that exist in Central New York, they participated in 16 separate career preparation activities that benefitted students during the last school year alone, including career fairs, speakers and career tours.

Others, such as the city of Syracuse fire and police departments, Onondaga County Sheriff's Department and District Attorney's Office, Lockheed-Martin, Dimon Construction, Anaren, Whole Me, SUNY Upstate, St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center, United Radio, Crouse Hospital, Solvay PaperBoard and Excellus are the leaders of those continuing to give their time and talent to support this critical need in our region.

Students and teachers have expressed a very high level of satisfaction with their experiences, based on the over 5,000 evaluations received.

M&T Bank is a model in terms of its practice of sharing "treasure." Over the last 10 years, M&T Bank has donated \$250,000 to PEB and its school partners, including McKinley-Brighton Elementary School and Nottingham High School in Syracuse, and Van Buren Elementary School in Baldwinsville.

These funds are targeted to support activities leading to an increase in academic achievement, including literacy and science, and the development of the overall character of young adults.

We want to especially thank Alan Naples, M&T's regional president, who is personally committed to supporting these efforts and has made education a priority for the bank.

In such turbulent economic times, the media have been focusing much reporting on examples of corporate irresponsibility. However, in Central New York we are benefitting from a corporate culture that is clearly rooted in "giving back" by demonstrating a desire to partner with education and youth as a proactive strategy to sustain our region. Thank you!