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Ninth Annual Computer Contest Slated

SCRANTON, PA, December 21, 2007— Skills in Scranton, the business-education partnership of The Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce, in cooperation with the Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Business and Industry, and the Great Valley Technology Institute are sponsoring the ninth annual Great Valley Computer Contest for high school students grades nine through twelve. The contest competition will be held on March 12, 2008 at Penn State Worthington Scranton.

All public and private schools in NEIU 19, LIU 18, and the Diocese of Scranton are eligible to compete. A maximum of two teams from each school can participate, with no more than five students on each team. More than \$5,000 in prizes will be awarded.

At the 2007 Computer Contest, Wyoming Area High School came in first place, with Wyoming Seminary placing second, and Wilkes-Barre AVTS placing third. West Scranton High School and Lake Lehman High School were finalists. Thirteen teams representing 15 high schools in northeast Pennsylvania participated.

The objective of the contest is to introduce and expose the area's high school youth to information technology in a competitive environment. Students will partner with an area business or non-profit and research, design, and develop a web site for their client.

The contest is a one-day event where all participating schools have an opportunity to present their contest entries. Each team will display entries for all to review. All teams will give informal presentations to the judges in an exhibit hall format. The top five teams will give a formal presentation to the audience. A judging committee will select the winners. Teams that are selected to present to the audience will be limited to a five minute presentation. Each contest web site will be evaluated in terms of technical quality, creativity, use of technology, and usability.

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First place prize for the contest is \$1,000 for the competing school, \$100 for teacher representing the school and \$100 for each student on the team. The prizes for second place include \$500 for the competing school, \$50 for teacher representing the school and \$50 for each student on the team. Students and the teacher on the third place team will receive \$25, with the school receiving \$250. All teachers that submit contest entries will receive a gift.

December 21, 2007 is the deadline for schools to register for the contest, and by January 11, 2008 schools must submit their business or non-profit partner's name. Projects must be submitted to the committee for judging by February 22, 2008. For a contest application form, contact Jeffrey A. Rubel at 570.342.7711 or jrubel@scrantonchamber.com. For more information, visit www.scrantonchamber.com.

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