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Eighth Annual Computer Contest Slated

SCRANTON, PA, December 11, 2006— Skills in Scranton, 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 eighth annual Great Valley Computer Contest for high school students grades nine through twelve. The contest competition will be held on March 7, 2007 at College Misericordia.

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 2006 Computer Contest, Lake Lehman High School came in first place, with Hanover Area High School placing second, and Wilkes-Barre AVTS placing third. The Career Technology Center of Lackawanna County and Wyoming Area High School were finalists. Thirteen teams representing 11 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 competing in the contest will create a business (actual or fictional) and research, design, and develop a web site for their business. The students can create a business and web site for one team member or can create a business and web site for the team. The web site may be informational or transactional in nature. Teams are also encouraged to publish their entries to the Internet.

"We're thrilled to once again partner with the Hazleton and Wilkes-Barre chambers, and the Great Valley Technology Institute for the Contest," stated Christopher J. Haran, contest committee chair. "Each year the judges are overwhelmed by the quality

of the contest entries, and we know that the students and teachers are proud to display their skills."

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.

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 15, 2006 is the deadline for schools to register for the contest, and by January 12, 2007 schools must submit their business name. Projects must be submitted to the committee for judging by February 20, 2007. 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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