

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

No Photo Enclosed

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## **Skills in Scranton Receives Grant**

**SCRANTON, PA, April 19, 2007**—Skills in Scranton, the business education partnership of The Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce, has received a \$95,000 grant from the PA Department of Labor & Industry.

The grant is awarded for "Connecting Today's Youth to the Careers of Tomorrow." Skills in Scranton is collaborating with Lakeland, Scranton and Valley View high schools, FutureConnect.org, the Lackawanna County Workforce Investment Board and Tech Prep of Luzerne County Community College on this project, and works with the Northeastern PA Regional Career Education Partnership in aligning career awareness strategies throughout the region.

Ms. Sandy Vito, Deputy Secretary for Workforce Development stated, "The funding will be used to work with Project 720 schools, connecting students with local employment, internships and other work-based learning opportunities, convening parents, community organizations and education leaders, integrating the academic standards for career education and work into curriculum, promoting e-mentoring and ensuring student awareness of what is expected for a seamless transition to post secondary experiences."

According to Jeffrey A. Rubel, Vice President of Skills in Scranton, "Substantial progress has been made during the past year in making students, parents and teachers aware of the many career opportunities in northeastern Pennsylvania. This has been accomplished through support from all of our partners."

Representatives from Skills in Scranton and area employers including Tobyhanna Army Depot have spoken with administrators, teachers and students in nearly every high school in Northeast Education Intermediate Unit (NEIU) 19 and the Diocese of Scranton.

Through a collaborative effort of Johnson College, Lackawanna College, and Tobyhanna Army Depot, a new 2 year associate degree program in electronics has been established and the first class began their studies this past September.

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This past summer, nine teachers from Lakeland High School participated in a weeklong "Teacher in the Workplace" program. This will continue this June with teachers from Scranton and Valley View joining the program.

Skills in Scranton is honored to have been selected as a grant recipient and looks forward to creating many more programs during the 2007/08 academic year. For more information on Skills in Scranton visit [www.scrantonchamber.com](http://www.scrantonchamber.com).

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