

Four Mon County Schools Earn Exemplary Partnership Recognition

Submitted by Judy Pratt, Monongalia County Schools Business and Industry Coordinator



Monongalia County Schools' Partnership in Education program recognized its schools' exemplary partnerships during its annual PIE Recognition and Awards Breakfast June 17. With a theme of "Grow Your Partnership," the event was conducted at Eastwood Elementary, the county's new "green" school. The breakfast's agenda highlighted several county schools' eco-friendly activities and programs, including North Elementary's Panther Pride vegetable gardens and Eastwood's extensive recycling and energy-saving activities. Brief remarks lauding the program were offered by Monongalia County Schools Superintendent Dr. Frank Devono, Board of Education President Dr. Barbara Parsons and Emily Schoen Pratt, The Education Alliance's director of Corporate Communications & National Service Programs.

With awards granted at gold, silver and bronze levels, four schools and their partners left the event with kudos and cash prizes, underwritten by area businesses.

Mylan Park Elementary and its nine community partners earned the 2013-14 PIE Gold Award and a check for \$1,000, underwritten by MedExpress Urgent Care. In the school's PIE award application, Mylan Park Principal Debi Tampoya cited her school's "effective utilization of and meaningful collaboration with all eight of our business partners" as key to their program's success. "It takes leadership by the entire staff to truly value community partnerships," Tampoya noted. "Making time for and a commitment to maintaining effective communication and collaboration with all our partners enhances both the school and the businesses, and requires outstanding organization and excellent planning." She added that ensuring the school/partner relationships are "two-way" has strengthened Mylan Park's PIE program. Mylan Park's PIE businesses are CiCi's Pizza, Dominion Hope, McDonalds/Star City, Target, Texas Roadhouse, United Mine Workers of America, WesBanco/Westover, West Virginia Junior College and WVU Healthcare.

North Elementary and its partners – Fairmont Federal Credit Union, HealthWorks Rehab & Fitness, McDonald's/705 and The Boston Beanery – were granted the \$500 2013-14 PIE Silver Award. "Through our partnerships with these local businesses, we're able to instill positive values, good attendance habits and an appreciation of the power of strong community relationships in our students," wrote North Principal Natalie Webb. "This past year, our partners proved once again the importance of working together as a community to provide the best education for our students." This year's Silver Award was underwritten by United Bank.

Two Monongalia County schools – University High and Eastwood Elementary – received PIE Bronze Awards of \$250 each during the June 17 breakfast. Underwritten by A&P Trucking, the prizes will support the schools' upcoming PIE projects. According to UHS Principal Shari Burgess, the "range of activities our partnerships support" is exemplary in itself, as are their "direct benefit to students, staff and the larger UHS community." UHS Partners in Education are Flying Arrow Productions, My Bank! First United Bank & Trust, PR Plus Events and Triple S Harley-Davidson. Eastwood Elementary's ongoing collaboration with its 14 partners – Black Bear Burritos, Bowles Rice McDavid Graff & Love PLLC, City of Morgantown, Cottrell's Country Store, First Exchange Bank/Suncrest Branch, Flowers & Beasley Embroidery, Insurance Center, Inc./Glenmark Centre, Jackson Kelly PLLC, Lowe's Home Improvement Warehouse, Morgantown Printing & Binding, Outback Steakhouse, Suncrest Kiwanis, University Motors Limited, WesBanco/Sabraton Branch – earned the pre-k-5 school its 2013-14 Bronze Award. "Overall, our partnerships are mutually beneficial for both Eastwood and our business partners," wrote Principal Deann Hartshorn. "The school and its students benefit from the wealth of knowledge, experience and financial support from our partners – and our partners benefit from their recognition throughout the community as

supporters of public education. Helen Keller may have said it best: 'Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.'"

In addition to the area businesses underwriting the schools' Gold, Silver and Bronze Awards, other members of the Morgantown-area business community supporting the PIE breakfast financially were: Bowles Rice McDavid Graff & Love LLP; Chesapeake Energy; Clear Mountain Bank; Dinsmore & Shohl LLP; HealthWorks Rehab & Fitness; Jackson Kelly PLLC; JDR Construction LLC; Lowe's Home Improvement Warehouse; Morgantown Surgical Associates; My Bank! First United Bank & Trust; Mylan Pharmaceuticals; Sundale; and West Virginia Junior College.

Photo: Mylan Park Elementary administrators and area business representatives celebrating their 2013-14 PIE Gold Award during the program's June 14 recognition breakfast are (from left) Walter Impellicceiri, CiCi's Pizza; Patty Callen, West Virginia Junior College; Mark Dorsey, UMWA; Debra Tampoya, Mylan Park principal; Debbie Jones, Mylan Park assistant principal.