

June 25, 2010

EDITORS: The following information is for immediate release. If you have any questions, please contact Patti VanCleave, program coordinator of the Chester County Economic Development Council, at 610 458-5700.

**‘Business, Industry, And ... Girls!’
program for high school students
concludes with recognition event**

ITAG and Economic Development Council sponsor program

EXTON _ The B.I.G. project (Business, Industry, And ... Girls!) concluded with a recognition event for the high school students and businesses taking part in the program.

The program matched students with women business and industry leaders. The goal was to introduce high school girls to good paying jobs in science, technology and mathematics. Jennifer Kasker of Mainline Health at Paoli Hospital, who coordinated the corporate partnership, said, “B.I.G. is a wonderful program that delves deeper into career paths and continued education for students who may not get such insights in high school classrooms. It gives an opportunity to see real life and how each of us can make our own successes! It was motivational for the young women.”

B.I.G. was sponsored by the Innovative Technology Action Group (www.itagpa.org), an industry partnership sponsored by the Chester County Economic Development Council and the Chester County Workforce Investment Board with grant funding from the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry.

The program took place from March 11 through May 25, 2010 and included five visits to corporations. The mentors included CEOs, CFOs, engineers, chemists and human relations specialists. The companies taking part were Analytical Graphics, Inc., Exton; Chester County Intermediate Unit, Downingtown; Mainline Health at Paoli Hospital, Paoli; Orthovita, Inc., Malvern; and Sealstrip Corporation, Gilbertsville.

The students attend Avon Grove High School, Owen J. Roberts High School and Coatesville Area High School.

The recognition event took place at the Chester County Economic Development Council on May 25. The featured speaker was Molly Leese Nece, President of Rhino Living.

The Chester County Economic Development Council is a private, non-profit economic development organization that has been nurturing economic growth in Chester County and the surrounding region for 50 years. The Council’s portfolio of business growth services includes: low-interest financing, small business lending, workforce training, retention and expansion, customized international business assistance, land and building site selection, brownfields consultation and remediation, urban redevelopment, and agricultural economic development. The Council also offers state-of-the art conference and training facilities at its facility in Eaglevew. For more information, see www.cceconomicdevelopment.com.

