

# Offset, Penn State enter in unique training partnership

By RONALD BARTIZEK  
Post Staff

**DALLAS** - Forming a unique relationship, Penn State Wilkes-Barre and Offset Paperback Manufacturers have launched a workforce training partnership in which all employee education at the plant will be managed by Penn State Wilkes-Barre.

"We've made a big-time commitment to training," said Ken Getz, Offset's personnel manager. "But it was time to step back and say, 'Maybe someone from an education background should do this.'"

As part of an effort to achieve coveted International Standards Organization (ISO) certification, Offset built a training and education center in a separate building behind the main plant. But it became apparent that training sometimes distracted employees from the work of printing 300 million paperback books a year.

"It becomes extremely demanding," Getz said. He gave computer training as an example, in which it wasn't unusual for Offset trainers to find it difficult to keep up

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**Ken Getz**  
Personnel Manager,  
Offset Paperback

with changing hardware and software, even as they were charged with showing others how to work it. As a result, the company hired an outside trainer a couple of years ago who can teach a mixed group of employees two or three programs at once.

Training is a key aspect of achieving ISO certification, a demanding process that forces a company to institute systems to assure a consistently high quality product or service. "You must say what you'll do, and do what you say," Getz said. "It's extensive."

Now, Penn State will take over management of all training in the plant. "A big part of that job is assessment" of what training is required, Getz said.

"Penn State will be responsible for determining what the training

needs are for all 700 Offset employees," said Janet Rosenbaum, Penn State continuing education representative who will administer the program.

Offset has contracted with Penn State since 1983 to provide management training and other services. A recent program was more extensive; Penn State assessed the need for training of mid-level managers in 1994, and produced a training schedule that went through 1996, Rosenbaum said. The difference now will be that Penn State will plan and manage all training, functions that in the past were handled by Offset's Human Resources Department.

Until now, most of Penn State's contribution has been in management training — such as sessions dealing with supervision, planning and communication — but the university will now coordinate other education resources. For example, Luzerne County Community College developed a computer graphics program for Offset, and its use will be managed by Penn State.

Getz said the company solicited proposals from other colleges,



**Training together;** shown at the Offset Paperback plant in Dallas to announce a training partnership, from left, Ken Getz, Offset Personnel Manager; Adam C. Crahall, Offset Director of Human Resources; Dr. Mary Hines, CEO, Penn State Wilkes-Barre; Joseph Makarewicz, Offset Executive Vice President; Ina K. Lubin, Penn State Director of Continuing Education; Janet Rosenbaum, Penn State Continuing Education Representative; Michael J. Gallagher, Offset CEO and President.

but felt Penn State offered the best overall program, and expressed a willingness to provide the best training, no matter what the source.

Penn State is already working to develop training resources, and Rosenbaum has been in contact with Dr. William Roswell, a main campus professor and author of several training and development

texts. Rosenbaum said training will be tied to specific business objectives.

"It is a very unique project for Penn State to be involved in," said Ina Lubin, director of continuing education. A full-time Penn State employee will work at Offset to implement the program. Rosenbaum will administer the partnership from her office at the

Lehman campus.

"It's a brand new position," Rosenbaum said. The job was posted at Penn State last week, and is being advertised. The aim is to fill the position by late August.

The Penn State/Offset agreement began July 1, and is renewable annually.



POST PHOTO/RON BARTIZEK

Patrolman Martin Maransky of the Kingston Twp. police department stretched a yellow police line across the entrance to Luzerne National Bank Friday. The branch was closed the rest of the day for a robbery investigation.

## Robbery

(continued from page 1)

the thief is being circulated. He is described as a white male, approximately 6' tall, with a thin build.

Leandri said the bank holds regular meetings on security, and employees are retrained every few months. "The staff acted according to our guidelines," he said.

Leandri said the main office in Luzerne was held up about four years ago, and the thief was captured within a couple of days.

George Maculloch, branch manager, said most bank robberies are solved, but arrests usually get much less exposure than robberies. He cited a robbery at another bank earlier this year, in which the thief turned himself in a few days later in Pottsville. The robbery was reported in the news, but the arrest was not.

## Suhocki named Karate Student of the Month

Barnes Kenpo Karate Systems, Dallas, announced Daniel Suhocki, as the July Student of the Month.

Daniel is attending Gate of Heaven School and is in the 8th grade.

His interests include: hunting, fishing and flying R/C airplanes. Daniel has four brothers, David, Christopher, Nicholas and Gregory and a sister, Carolyn. He is the son of David and Carolyn Suhocki, of Dallas.



## Churches are 'Hooked on Jesus'

"Hooked on Jesus" was the theme for this year's Ecumenical Vacation Bible School held recently at Shavertown United Methodist Church and sponsored in part by St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Shavertown.

More than 80 children and youth participated in the week-day morning program centered on the Beatitudes and kicked off with a picnic on Sunday afternoon. The site-based lessons were presented in such places as "Comfort Cove", "Belief Reef" and "Patience Peer" where they enjoyed snacks, games, and crafts using the fishing theme. The children were assisted by more than 25 adults.

The mission emphasis benefited the "Rikki Sue Shotwell Fund."

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