

College Misericordia gets \$14,000 technology grant

College Misericordia was recently awarded a \$14,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Commerce and Economic Development to expand its innovative Information Technology Security Program. The program will now include Tunkhannock Area High School.

The program was launched last year in conjunction with West Side Area Vocational Technical School and Luzerne County Community College through an initial grant from the state Department of Commerce and Economic Development.

"The IT Security Pipeline program addresses a growing need for these educated professionals in the work force and shows the great potential of collaboration among different parts of the education system," said Michael MacDowell, president of College Misericordia. "Whether it is preventing annoying computer viruses from cluttering your e-mail to more serious issues of national security, IT security professionals will be in demand."

"Area companies will be able to tap into this talented labor force and this program will build on technology and economic growth efforts spearheaded by other organizations such as the Great Valley Technology Alliance."

The program creates a comprehensive and seamless IT security curriculum for students beginning in their junior year at Tunkhannock Area or West Side Area Vocational Technical School, continues through a new associate's degree program in cyber security at LCCC and culminates in a bachelor's degree in IT with an IT security specialization at College Misericordia. The pipeline courses began in September 2004 and will be added to the Tunkhannock Area High School curriculum in 2006.

"We are excited about the opportunities this program offers our students," said Michael Thornton, principal of Tunkhannock Area High School. "Our former principal (Jack Gallo), saw the advantages of linking our

school to high demand career areas and got the program started last year. West Side Area Vocational Technical School has assisted us in curriculum development and we look forward to working with LCCC and College Misericordia to make this program grow."

College Misericordia's Insalaco Center for Career Development provides specially designed career development services during the sophomore year at WSAVTS prior to student enrollment in the IT Pipeline and expects to do so at Tunkhannock Area High School. Similar services continue through an existing agreement at LCCC and students entering College Misericordia will be eligible for its Guaranteed Placement Program, a structured four-year program culminating in career employment, graduate study or a guaranteed paid internship.

"Graduates of the pipeline program will enjoy employment opportunities in the IT security work force at every level of this program," said Christopher Sutzko, director of the Insalaco Center. "Those options range from computer technician to IT security officer at a major local company."

An IT Security Camp also will be offered for high school freshmen and sophomores to gauge their interest in the field.

"We are pleased to be a partner in the IT Security grant," said Dustin Swanger, provost and vice president for academic affairs at LCCC. "The growing need for people with a thorough understanding of cyber-security has been discussed at several meetings and national conferences. This is another example of how regional educational institutions can collaborate for the development of the entire region."

Students interested in obtaining more information about the program at College Misericordia should call Fred Croop at 674-6327 or Mark Rutkowski at 740-0646. They may also talk to the guidance counselors at their respective schools.

CHURCH BRIEFS

Trucksville UMC seeking volunteers

The Trucksville United Methodist Church will be sending a group of volunteers to help with the Wyoming Valley Habitat Work Day from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 28 at a site to be announced. Construction skills or prior experience is not necessary. The group is also looking

for people to help organize a lunch for the work site. Anyone interested in helping should call Morag Michael 675-0488.

Loyalville UMC sets chicken dinner

The Loyalville United Methodist Church will hold a chicken and biscuits dinner from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 14 at the church on Loyalville Road. The

church is located one-half mile off Route 29 south and 4 miles west of Dallas from Route 118. There will also be a bake sale.

Takeouts will be available and orders should be called in advance. Dinners are \$8 for adults and \$4 for children under age 12. For takeout orders or more information, call 477-3521.

Awana Club meets at Grace Community

The Awana Club ministry at

the Grace Community Church in Dallas meets from 6-7:45 p.m. every Wednesday at the church, which is located across from Chapel Lawn Cemetery on Memorial Highway.

The Bible-based club is open to boys and girls ages 4 through sixth grade. The club consists of Bible teaching, fun, fellowship, games and special events.

For more information, call the church office at 675-3723.



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STUDENT COUNCIL HOLDS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS EVENT



The Student Council at Lake-Lehman High School recently held its annual children's party and dinner at the school. Members of the committee, from left, first row are Ashlee Swanson, Jordan Anderson and Bethany Daron. Second row: adviser Cathy Wolfe and Lauryn Ference.

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RUTABAGA	NORIS	ATONAL	
OREL	CABAL	GLENN	ALLIT
ADEE	EROSE	AORTA	TEAR
RUS	DRUID	SYRUP	EGRU

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4	1	3	6	0	8
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1	9	6	1	5	4

ORR	SAD	KATE
KEEP	ICE	IBIS
RANI	REF	RENT
AMOCO	SOWS	
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SYSTEM	EEL	
RAID	BLOND	
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DOLT	YAM	STY