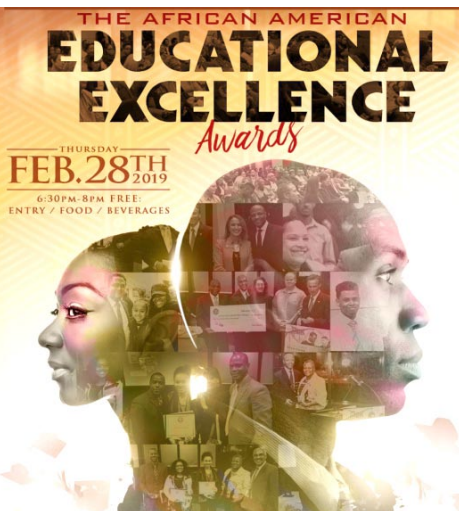


Lehigh Valley My Brother's Keeper African American Educational Excellence Award

By David S Jones Executive Director

ALLENTOWN - In honor of Black History Month the Lehigh Valley My Brother's Keeper Initiative presents the 2nd annual African American Educational Excellence Awards. The purpose of this Award's event is to recognize African American educators and students who have demonstrated a commitment to educational mentoring and academic achievement. Normally the Black History month narrative focuses on the story of our struggle and the usual historic figures. Make no mistake those stories and icons are critical to understanding our unique American experience as African Americans. However that is not the only narrative of that experience.



Since the founding of our nation until today we have made significant imprints and contributions in the fields of science, medicine, technology and math. Our hope is that by recognizing and celebrating those who have achieved academically we can encourage thousands of minority students in the valley to follow in those historical footsteps by striving for educational excellence. We invite you and your guests to The African American Educational Excellence Awards, sponsored by the Lehigh Valley My Brother's Keeper initiative on Thursday, Feb 28, 6:30-8:00 p.m. This year's event will be held at the Lehigh Valley Heritage Museum located at 432 W. Walnut St. Allentown, Pa. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Additional questions please contact: executivedirector@lvmbk.org 610-739-3386.

Unity Bank Offers Free Financial Literacy Program for Students Pre-K – 12

By Fred Feiner

CLINTON, N.J. – Unity Bank is offering a free financial literacy program for schools and community organizations throughout its marketplace footprint, which includes Lehigh and Northampton counties in Pennsylvania. Bergen, Hunterdon, Middlesex, Somerset, Union and Warren counties in New Jersey.

Certified classroom educational program can provide valuable support to schools coping with new state requirements. The expanded New Jersey law requires lessons on budgeting, credit, debt, insurance, investment savings and other personal finance issues.

"Unity Bank has provided a financial literacy program to schools and the community for eight years, but the initiative is even more important today because New Jersey recently expanded the financial literacy educational requirements for middle school students," said James A. Hughes Unity Bank President & CEO. "Our goal has always been to provide students with valuable information about money, saving and banking. The program is designed to be educational, fun and interactive."

Unity Bank's Start Smart Financial Education Program is a comprehensive financial literacy program designed for grades Pre-K through 12. The bank provides 10 certified Unity Bank Start Smart Financial Education Instructors who are Unity employees, including branch and administrative staff.

"The certified instructors go through a rigorous training and certification process to prepare for classroom instruction," said Hughes. "We have invested in the financial literacy program because, as a community bank, Unity is committed to partnering with schools, community organizations and businesses to provide children with a solid foundation for their financial future."

Unity's lesson plans have been written to meet the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics standards. Each lesson is supported with an activity that is age appropriate for grades Pre-K through 12. Classroom instruction varies depending on age group and include:

Grades Pre-K – 4: activities focus on teaching children the basic principles of money and saving; Grades 5 – 8: activities teach children about banking, finances, money and understanding checking and ATM transactions; Grades 9 – 12: activities focus on preparing students for their financial future, including basic banking practices, credit, personal finances, budgeting and understanding checking and ATM transactions.

Please call the bank at (908) 713-4310 for more information on Unity Bank's Start Smart Financial Education Program or to request the program be offered through your school or community organization.

Please visit the New Jersey Department of Education website at nj.gov/education/cccs/2014/career/91.pdf for a complete list of the new standards.

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Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times

You Can't Breathe Through a Straw

Earlier this week I returned to the home that I mentioned in last week's article to take all of the measurements that would explain the uncomfortable rooms. It was interesting because even though it was much warmer outside than it was on my first visit, some rooms were still noticeably cooler than others. One of the first things that happens when architects get involved is that spaces for ducts get eliminated or filled with things that really cramp the style of a HVAC installer.

At the time it seems like a good idea but eventually there is a price to be paid. Every duct needs to deliver a fixed amount of air to each room. This requires a particular size of duct with as few fittings as possible and hopefully no flexible duct in the line. Air creates friction when it has to be pushed through a duct much like you breathing through a straw.

The smaller the duct and the more fittings in it, the more friction. Flexible ducts have a lot of friction because they are not smooth inside. There is wire like a slinky in there and it opposes airflow. There are usually sharp bends in flexible duct that also choke airflow. Duct leakage is another comfort killer because any air that leaks out will never reach the room. So far we have only been talking about the conditioned air that supplies each room but there is also a whole return air system that brings room air back to the main unit to be conditioned and returned the rooms. This goes on constantly. If you believe me that supply duct systems are built badly, you should see most return duct systems. Sometimes I put on a neck brace to prevent permanent injury because I shake my head so often on a duct inspection job. A US Department of Energy study shows that most duct systems leak 25-40% of the air. I would lean toward the 40% number.

The biggest problem in the house I was describing is a poor duct system. The house has a lot of leakage too and the insulation is not great but if there was enough heat reaching every room, the complaint would be the energy bill to keep it warm, not comfort. The first problem to overcome is a basement that was finished around the poor duct system. Once the drywall is out, a better distribution system can be constructed and hopefully the demo part job will not have to go upstairs.

Ken Field is the owner of Field's Service, Inc. and Slate Belt Energy Services. He has over 40 years of experience in heating, air conditioning and is certificated by RESNET and BPI in various areas of energy conservation. He can be reached at 610-599-8832 or at www.SlateBeltEnergy.com

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**Waste Management List of 'World's Most
Admired Companies'**

By Adrienne Fors

PEN ARGYL, PA., JAN. 28, 2019 – Waste Management (NYSE: WM), which operates facilities in Northampton and Lehigh counties, has been named to Fortune magazine's list of 'World's Most Admired Companies'. Rated by top executives, directors and industry analysts, this marks the Company's debut on the list.

The Houston-based company also learned last week that it has earned an A grade from environmental non-profit CDP for the depth and quality of climate change data it discloses to investors and the global marketplace.

"This recognition speaks to the incredible contributions of our more than 42,000 employees as they manage the environmental needs of our customers and communities," said Jim Fish, president and chief executive officer of Waste Management. "It also speaks to the steps we've been taking in investing in differentiated technologies and in thinking differently about problem solving in ways that make us more agile and equip us – and our customers - to be strong advocates for the environment and to thrive in a changing world."

The Fortune study, conducted in partnership with Korn Ferry, surveys thousands of senior executives, outside directors and financial analysts to identify the companies that enjoy the strongest reputations within their industries and across industries. The survey assesses candidates in 52 industry groupings drawn from Fortune 1000 and Global 500 companies as well as other major non-U.S. companies. Survey participants rate candidates based on the nine key attributes: innovation, people management, use of corporate assets, social responsibility, quality of management, financial soundness, long-term investment value, quality of products and services, and global competitiveness. Learn more about the methodology at www.kornferry.com.

CDP's 2018 Climate A List places Waste Management among a highly competitive group of companies from around the world identified as leaders in their efforts to combat climate change. While thousands of businesses disclose their environmental performance through the CDP, few gain the coveted A rating. The rating acknowledges the company's work to reduce emissions, mitigate climate risks and develop the low-carbon economy in the past CDP reporting year.

"We are honored to be recognized among this vanguard of companies taking strategic action to preserve our environment," Mr. Fish said. "Our commitment to annual disclosure of our carbon footprint is key to our work with employees and customers to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in ways that benefit both the environment and the economy."

Waste Management has been included in CDP's survey results since 2004, and this is the third year in a row that Waste Management has achieved a position on CDP's Climate A List. The Climate A List and full company scores are available on CDP's website: CDP 2018 Scores.

Read Across America Day

By Adrienne Fors

PEN ARGYL - Read Across America Day at Grand Central Environmental Education Center.

Let's Celebrate the Trees and Dr. Seuss! March 2, 2018 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Grand Central Environmental Education Center 891 Grand Central Road Pen Argyl PA 18072 The Lorax is the speaker of the trees with a powerful message that we can all learn from.

The Read Across America Day celebration event will feature Dr. Seuss's Lorax story and activities. Children (ages 3-10) will learn about tree identification, how recycling the right items affects the environment and more! Registration is required as space is limited. Register with Adrienne Fors, afors1@wm.com or 610-863-2387 For More Information visit www.facebook.com/grandcentrallandfillandhauling.