

The Slate Belt Chamber Of Commerce Announce Applications For Scholarship Achievement Award 2025

By Beth Duyssen

BANGOR - The Slate Belt Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce applications for Scholarship Achievement Award 2025 are available at the guidance departments of Bangor High School, Pen Argyl High School, Faith Christian & Career Institute of Technology. The Chamber will award one scholarship to a senior from each of these schools. Applicants must reside in the Slate Belt to apply.

The scholarships will be presented to the students based upon the following criteria; academic accomplishment, demonstrated service to school and/or community, demonstration of leadership capabilities and future college or vocational plans.

Please note: A separate award, The Frederick R. Curcio, Jr. Scholarship Award, may also be applied for at this time. To qualify a senior must been enrolled in a computer science related course or planning to attend a Technical School of their choice or majoring in computer science. Applications must be received by April 10, 2025.



Clean Team Workforce February Employee of the Month

By Stephnie Apell

(ALLENTOWN, PA) – The Clean Team Workforce congratulates its Employee of the Month for February, Peter F. After the death of his wife four years ago, Peter was ready to give up on life. He couldn't function and quit his job as a horse groomer. He struggled with depression and felt that he was too old to matter or make a difference in the world.

After his savings ran out, Peter was evicted from his apartment, and he attempted to take his life. He stayed in a mental health program for six months and then came to the Allentown Rescue Mission. At the Mission, Peter felt his anxiety lift after

his immediate needs were met and he talked to other guests and realized he wasn't alone.

He joined the eight-week Transformation Program and enjoyed learning new skills and ideas. Mission staff knew a change was happening inside of Peter because he began to smile, something he never thought he would do again.

"I became closer to God," Peter stated. Peter started working for the Clean Team Workforce after graduating from the Transformation Program. He worked on street cleaning assignments for several weeks and would always stop by the Clean Team Workforce office to thank the managers for giving him the opportunity to work. Peter arrives every day with a big smile and is happy to be productive and earn money.

Then, an opportunity arose in the Food Service Department of the Allentown Rescue Mission. Peter jumped at the chance to do this type of work. He and his wife had cooked together, and he knew she would love that he was cooking. The Food Service Manager has taken Peter under his wing and is teaching him kitchen skills to make him eligible for a job after he leaves the Clean Team Workforce. Peter's goal is to take advantage of his new skills and find a job in the restaurant industry in the Lehigh Valley. He has been saving money and is looking for a place to live. Everyone at the Mission is rooting for Peter and wishes him the best of luck in the future.



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