

MEDALS, MEDIA, & MORE: SENECA COURSE TRANSCENDS TRADITIONAL CLASSROOM

The Medals and Media course at Seneca High School is a course unlike any other that is offered. The one paragraph course description of the Medals and Media course in the scheduling guide tells the students that they will be developing an understanding of what individuals had to endure during major historical conflicts. If there were more room in the guide, the entire story could be told. Mr. Robert Hart is the lead teacher of the class, but as the students soon discover, real life heroes and history are the co-teachers. Mr. Hart facilitates many different experiences for the students that transcend traditional classroom walls and truly bring learning to life. The first quarter of the class is a joint effort with a group of students from Strong Vincent High School. The two groups spend time together in each other's schools and even gather around the teleconferencing equipment to discuss upcoming assignments. Twice during the quarter, the schools met and interviewed Medal of Honor recipients (Thomas Norris and Michael Thornton) via our school's polycom equipment. This portion of the course concluded with a gala event where students presented their final products to a committee of teachers while being videotaped as part of the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation's effort to expand this class' curriculum across the country. As part of a class service project, Mr. Hart's students also arranged a celebration where each student invited past or present members of our armed forces to a catered banquet at the Union Station Restaurant. The class raised nearly \$5,000 to honor the 100 veterans while keynote speakers Judge/General Michael Dunlavey and State Representative John Hornaman also expressed their support. This event received an abundance of press with our local television stations covering the occasion and conducting interviews. After studying how the media shapes our view of history, the class is currently working on additional, smaller scale community service projects as part of their final exam. This class gives Seneca students a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to speak with and honor the history that has formed our country and will shape our future.



*Judge Michael Dunlavey, former Seneca student,
Jimmy Noyer and Mr. Howard Hart*



*Seneca Senior, Christopher (CJ) Swantek-Stafford and
Representative John Hornaman*

WASD FOCUSES ON ENERGY EFFICIENCY

The Wattsburg Area School District is in the process of implementing \$1.6 million in facility enhancements designed to improve operations, comfort, and energy efficiency in the district's three facilities. Building Controls & Services, Inc. (BCS), a certified Energy Services Company (ESCO) in Pennsylvania, is completing the work under a Guaranteed Savings Performance Contract with the district. BCS is guaranteeing that the district will reduce its utility costs by almost \$142,000 annually once the implementation of the improvements is completed.

According to Stephen Maksimuk, Business Administrator, "the savings generated by this project will allow us to implement needed improvements with money that is already budgeted for utilities, thereby avoiding possible tax increases or another bond sale."

The plan developed by BCS to resolve Wattsburg's facility problems include a number of energy conservation measures (ECMs). BCS will replace antiquated boilers and inefficient lighting, upgrade controls and recommission existing controls, and upgrade mechanical systems including installation of variable speed motor drives on fans and pumps as well as reconditioning of unit ventilators. BCS will also install a specialized control system to reduce energy consumption associated with the district's numerous personal computers.

SHS Bobcat Bullet:

The Seneca High School
Science Olympiad team
finished 35th in the state at
the 2011 Pennsylvania State
High School Science Olympiad
Competition held at Juniata
College on April 29th.

