

FOUR VALLEY RESIDENTS TO BE HONORED AS MENTORS OF THE YEAR

Allentown, PA – Four Lehigh Valley residents will be honored as the 2007 Aspires Lehigh Valley Mentors of the Year. Chosen through a competitive, valley-wide selection were Tony Muir of Allentown, Mary Slotter of East Greenville, Jason McCully of Harleysville and Carol Riley of Slatington.

January is National Mentoring Month. To honor local mentors, the Aspires Mentoring Program will honor these Lehigh Valley Mentors of the Year at an awards ceremony January 11, 2007. The ceremony will be from 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. in Moyer Hall at Muhlenberg College.

Ismael Arcelay, special assistant to Ed Pawlowski, the Mayor of Allentown, will be the keynote speaker. Arcelay spent 29 years in business, including 27 with AT&T, before joining the Mayor's office. He previously served as a Northampton County Elections Commissioner, a Personnel Commissioner and was also a City Councilor in Bethlehem.

Muir is an attorney with Scoblionko, Scoblionko, Muir and Bartholomew. He has been mentoring an Allen High School student through the Aspires program. He lives in Allentown.

Slotter is a Title I teacher at Central Elementary School in the Allentown School District. She was nominated by several co-workers. Slotter has worked in the Allentown School District for the past 14 years, including the last 10 at Central. She lives in East Greenville.

McCully, who lives in Harleysville, has taught at Cleveland Elementary School for three years. Last year, he started a Cub Scout pack for inner-city youth. He originally organized 25 boys and the group has now grown faster than any pack in the region. This year, more than 65 young men are in the scouting program and benefiting from McCully's mentoring.

Riley, of Slatington, has worked at PPL Corporation for 25 years. She has been part of a PPL partnership with the Allentown School District, and has mentored students at Cleveland Elementary School, for more than 10 years.

Working in partnership with Communities in Schools, Inc., Aspires Mentoring is a program of the Lehigh County Conference of Churches, a not for profit organization, which recently celebrated its 50th anniversary. Aspires is dedicated to the recruitment of volunteers who will offer support for students in the Allentown public schools who are at-risk of not graduating, and help them succeed academically, graduate from high school, and become productive citizens. The goal of Aspires is to increase the number of educated, employable citizens from the Allentown public schools.

The breakfast is open to the public. A donation of \$10 is requested for a ticket to the breakfast. For information and reservations, contact the Lehigh County Conference of Churches at 610-433-6421 or lccc@lccconfchurch.org.

Winners of the 2006 Mentors of the Year Awards were Paul Marin of Emmaus; Doug Snyder of Bethlehem and Allen High School; Enid Lopez of Kunkletown and Bonibelle Velazquez of Allentown.

Editors: for more information contact
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Previous Aspires Mentors of the Year

The 2006 Mentors of the Year:

Paul Marin, Emmaus
Doug Snyder, Bethlehem/Allen High School
Enid Lopez, Kunkletown
Bonibelle Velazquez of Allentown

The 2005 Mentors of the Year:

William Cantwell, Allentown
Nancy Leitgeb, Bethlehem
Ernie Peckham, Walnutport

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Ismael Arcelay Biography

Ismael earned his A.A.S. Architectural Engineering at Delhi State University of New York. He resides in Bethlehem with his wife Suzette. They have four children. Later this year Ismael will become a grandfather.

Having spent 27 years at AT&T, he served in various positions including engineer, web architect, graphics consultant and creative technical director.

During this time he also represented the AT&T brand nationally as well as the local community. Internally at AT&T as an Executive Board Member for the Christian Employees of AT&T he led a yearly Christian Conference for corporate employees, in which over 15 corporations participated.

After leaving AT&T, he joined Reeb Millwork Corporation leading its marketing efforts for 18 months.

Late last year, Ismael decided to leave the corporate environment and entered into city government, joining Mayor Ed Pawlowski's cabinet as Special Assistant to the Mayor.

He previously served as a Northampton County Elections Commissioner, a Personnel Commissioner and was also a City Councilor in Bethlehem.