

GREATER SOUTHERN DUTCHESS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Nussbickel Building
2582 South Avenue
Wappingers Falls, New York 12590
845.296.0001 Fax: 845.296.0006
www.gsdcc.org



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 5.16.07

CONTACT: Sheila Fields

**The Chamber Foundation, Inc. Celebrates Youth Leadership Participants with
Moving Up Ceremony, May 15**

Wappingers Falls, NY...Learning to work as a team, overcoming shyness, putting professionalism ahead of personality differences, growing in responsibility, mentoring opportunities and community service which reached around the world, were some of the topics students spoke about at the Youth Leadership Moving Up ceremony at the Villa Borghese on May 15. Students, parents, educators and guests were among the approximately 125 people who gathered to honor members of the Youth Leadership program, a four year educational leadership development course for more than 50 high school students from Beacon, John Jay and Roy C. Ketcham high schools. Youth Leadership is a program of The Chamber Foundation Inc., the educational arm of the Greater Southern Dutchess Chamber of Commerce, and is sponsored by HSBC Bank.

Youth Leadership students begin the program as freshmen with an overnight Leadership Retreat emphasizing teamwork at a local camp. As sophomores, students participate in a virtual enterprise through the Junior Achievement Program, working in cooperation with local business leaders to design, capitalize and run their own business. Juniors are involved in a mentorship program with professionals in the community, meeting with mentors monthly to learn about the skills and aptitudes required in the business world. Seniors help facilitate workshops for the Youth Leadership program and participate in an internship in the field of their choice.

Participation in the program is by guidance counselor recommendation. For further information about Youth Leadership, call the Greater Southern Dutchess Chamber of Commerce at 845.296.0001.

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