

Observer-Reporter

Greene County superintendents applaud Botvin LifeSkills sponsors

September 30, 2016

Superintendents of the five Greene County school districts recently met with sponsors of the Botvin *LifeSkills Training* substance abuse curriculum. Sponsor contributions fully funded the program, which will reach an estimated 2,750 students in third through ninth grades throughout the county this year.

The Coalition for a Brighter Greene led the project by hiring a certified Botvin LifeSkills trainer to provide classroom training. Forty-five principals, teachers, guidance counselors and nurses from the county schools, plus four Greene County Health and Human Services employees, received the training and became certified to teach the *LifeSkills Training* program. Sponsors of the program paid for all teacher manuals and student workbooks, as well as the two-day training for educators.



Those who participated in the sponsor appreciation event were, front row, from left, Pastor Richard Berkey of Rolling Meadows Church of God; Mark and Jessie Leidecker, owners of Jesmar Energy, which was the leading sponsor in the West Greene and Southeastern Greene School districts; Sheila Stewart, president of the board of the Greene County Memorial Hospital Foundation, which was the largest sponsor in the Central Greene School District and sole sponsor of Jefferson-Morgan and Carmichaels Area School districts; Bettie Stammerjohn, executive director of the Community Foundation of Greene County, which was a secondary sponsor in the Central, West Greene and Southeastern Greene School districts; Donna Furnier, superintendent of the Jefferson-Morgan School District; Chris Gardner; and Brian Jackson, superintendent of the West Greene School District; and second row, Jonathan Johnson, treasurer of the Coalition for a Brighter Greene; Brett Moore, member of the board of the Greene County Memorial Hospital Foundation; Dave Jones, executive director of the hospital foundation; Brian Uplinger, superintendent of the Central Greene School District; Rich Pekar, superintendent of the Southeastern Greene School District; and John Menhart, superintendent of the Carmichaels Area School District.