



EDUCATION GROUP

*Interactive Workshops. Engaged Communities.  
Keeping teens "into" school!*

# CHOICES Case Study



**"You gave us an education about why we need education." –Evan, middle school student, Washington**

## BIE ALLIANCE, STATE OF DELAWARE

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### WHY CHOICES?

In the mid 1980's, the dropout rate for Delaware students was 7.2%. There were no school programs for students that addressed this problem. Bell Atlantic Telephone Company (now Verizon Communications) foresaw the employment problems that would result if this trend continued. They asked Delaware's Business Industry Education (BIE) Alliance, the state's business liaison for education, to help them implement the CHOICES program. The BIE Alliance applied for corporate grants to fund the workshop and now serves every public school eighth grader in the state. Discover Bank has supplied CHOICES funding the last seven years, including the 2006/2007 academic year.

### RESULTS:

- Number of Years CHOICES delivered: 18
- Number of Classes Served per Year: 299 (7,475 Students\*)
- Number of Schools Served per Year: 36
- Number of Active Presenters: 92
- Get significant word-of-mouth from volunteers highlighting personal value and reward.
- CHOICES is requested by each year by educators who look forward to interacting with the business community.

*"CHOICES is the program our school administrators and teachers feel has the most impact. Our educators have said the impact they notice in the classroom after the CHOICES program is that students make comments relevant to being more aware that they are in control of their future and are more focused on utilizing self-discipline to reach their goals."*

~ Carol Blaeuer, BIE

\*Assumes national average of 25 students per class (SOURCE: [National Center for Education Statistics](http://www.nces.ed.gov/ipeds/data/ipeds_nat_summary.asp)). Class size varies by school.