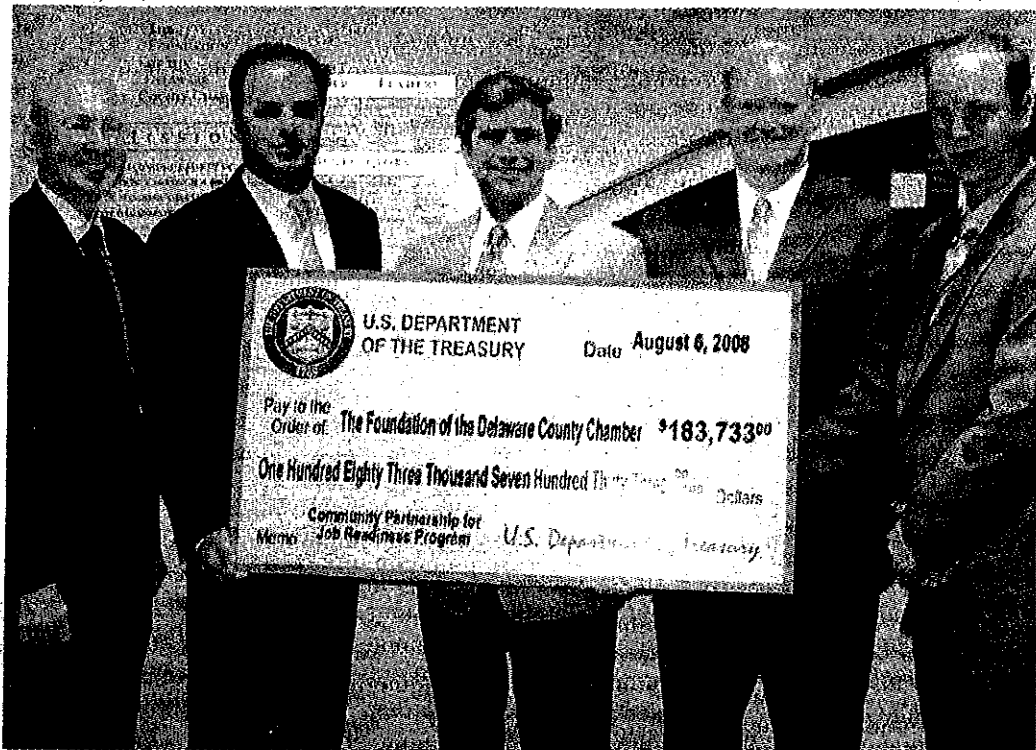


Delco Chamber Receives Federal Funding for Job Readiness Program



Congressman Joseph Sestak (center) recently presented the Delaware County Chamber Foundation with a check for a job readiness program that trains potential employees in new skills, particularly technology. Above, at the check presentation, are (l-r) John Unangst, Foundation Board Member; Jeff Vermeulen, Chamber President; John Camero, Chamber of Commerce Board Chair; and Todd Darlington, Foundation Board Member. (See story inside on page 7.)

Delco Chamber Receives Federal Funding for Job Readiness Program

Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-07) presented a \$183,733 check to the Delaware County Chamber Foundation for a job readiness program that will be geared toward providing more technical training opportunities, and revealed a new initiative that brings together local superintendents with employers of artisan skilled-workers to establish better training for careers in need of more qualified employees.

"The key to strengthening our current financial climate is starting with partnerships between businesses and education institutions" said Sestak. "These funds and this new program involving superintendents will help prepare our youth for important, well-paid

jobs."

The funding, which the Congressman won through the federal appropriations process, and the new partnership complement the Workforce Development Summit that the Congressman hosted in June. Sestak has also established a Higher Education Workforce Development Advisory Committee of local leaders to address the same concerns voiced at the summit, including how to better prepare students to meet the needs of local businesses and ways to address the lack of participation in training programs for artisan skills. The committee's work has led to the initiative that will partner area schools

with local companies to introduce students to high-value manufacturing fields and establish a relationship between the businesses and the community.

"With our country's economy struggling, it is becoming more and more imperative that students not only receive access to a post-secondary education, whether it is at a four-year college, a two-year institution or a trade school, but also obtain the needed preparation in secondary schools," said Sestak. "It is the government's responsibility to provide these opportunities to help ensure their job security and our nation's financial security."