ASPIRE’s mission is to prepare students to be competent, confident and caring in managing their personal, family and public lives.

It was a big night for everyone involved in the Quakertown Community School District’s ASPIRE program, as year one draws to a close.

ASPIRE stands for Acquiring Skills, Professionalism, Independence and Responsibility for Education/Employment. It’s for students ages 18 to 21, who may have a mental or physical challenge that calls for more schooling to help them prepare to navigate the world after high school.

Students are taught daily living skills, how to gain and retain employment and are educated in self advocacy and interpersonal skills.

On Monday night, Elizabeth Alvino, the teacher who helped create the program, praised the students for their hard work and the contribution they made to the community. She also recognized the community partners that gave her students the opportunity to develop their skills. Those businesses included Peace Tree Farm of Kintnersville, which provided the students with a tour of its facility early in the school year, and those where they worked, including Hope ReStored Thrift Shop, the Quakertown Food Pantry, Swann’s Pantry, Aid For Friends and Lowe’s.