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Lauren Krizner of the U.S. Diplomacy Center addresses a class at the Uniontown Area Senior High School on Friday about the Marshall Plan.

Speaker says Marshall 'exemplified diplomacy'

BY REBEKAH SUNGALA

Herald-Standard

George C. Marshall knew the power of diplomacy, and he used it to help war-torn European nations rise from the ashes of World War II.

That was one of the messages that Lauren Krizner delivered during a presentation to Uniontown Area Senior High School students in Joseph LaPresta's American History class Friday afternoon.

Krizner, an education program specialist with the U.S. Diplomacy Center, said Marshall "exemplified diplomacy"

She said the Uniontown native will be featured in the U.S. Department of State Visitor Center and Museum of Diplomacy she is working to build in Washington, D.C., by 2008.

After World War II ended, Marshall formulated the Mar-

shall Plan, which supplied aid to 270 million people in 16 western European nations. Krizner said the plan never promised to rebuild buildings and other infrastructure in the war-torn nations, but instead offered the people there a chance to pull themselves up from the rubble.

The United States gave the nations \$17 billion and four years to come up with their own revitalization plan to solve economic problems. The plan formally ended in 1952.

During her presentation, Krizner defined diplomacy for the students and stressed the important role diplomats play in the global community.

A diplomat, she said, is someone who subtly and skillfully creates relations between nations and negotiates alliances, treaties and agreements.

She identified two types of

diplomacy: track-one diplomacy, which involves government officials; and track-two diplomacy, which involves everyday people meeting and getting to know others of different nationalities.

Diplomacy, Krizner said, builds bridges of understanding between nations, tears down walls and, in the best situations, creates peace.

"Marshall understood the power of diplomacy," Krizner said. "He was diplomatically brilliant and was able to get representatives from European nations who were once at war against each other to sit down together and talk." Krizner will display an exhibit entitled "The Marshall Plan: A Vision of a Family of Nations" in the Fayette Building today and Sunday afternoon as part of the "Heroes All: 60 Years Later" commemoration.