The Community Page



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Congratulations DECA students!



The DECA members and sponsors who attended the state competition in Overland Park were (back row, left to right) Matilda Yarbrough, Richard Schwasinger, Tammy Freeman, Tiffany Schwasinger, Laura Rice, Cassandra Murray, Randi Gray and Stephanie Yarbrough; (middle row, left to right) Wanda Schritter, Cathy Lovins, Blake Helderman, Bryce Chatfield, Kristopher Krayca and Chris Engel; (front row, left to right) Vera Beneda, Quennton McCombs, Lisa Bennetts, Sabra Yarbrough, sponsor's daughter, James Smith, Destiny Wing and Sharon Ries.

Students qualify for nationals **Teacher says**

all students did excellent **By Rachel Miscall**

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Tiffany Schwasinger and Laura Rice, Goodland DECA students, took first place at a state competition earlier this month for their project on free enterprise, paving the way to a national competition in Anaheim, Cali.

attended the Kansas State DECA Career Development Conference on Mar. 3-6 in Overland Park, competing against other business-minded teen-agers from across Kansas.

While sophomores Schwasinger and Rice are the only students who will go on to the national conference in April, the other students placed high in the annual conference. The students were judged on community projects they organized, a 100-question test and acting out two role plays in a business situation.

"Overall, I was really pleased with their performances," said Rich Schwasinger, the DECA teacher. "Even those students who didn't receive awards competed well."

He said Goodland had the smallest student population of the 45 schools that competed, meaning students here were up against those from larger schools and cities. Schwasinger said the students stacked up well.

"This year's projects were the best they've ever been," he said, calling the free enterprise project the "big gun."

Schwasinger's and Rice's project was called, "Localize With Free Enterprise," and included the students convincing the city to declare it "free enterprise week," creating a Monopoly-like board game using Goodland



Laura Rice, a sophomore and member of the Goodland DECA class, won awards at a state competition this month in the Apparel and Accessories Marketing Master Employee Competition and will go to national competition for a project she and Tiffany Schwasinger did.



Tiffany Schwasinger (left), president of her DECA class in Goodland, accepted the position of Western Region Vice President during a state competition earlier this month.

businesses and educating students and the public about free enterprise.

Schwasinger also came in first for her score on a test focusing on Business Services Marketing and was named Western Region Vice President for the state DECA organization.

Rice took second place for her score on the test she took dealing with Apparel and Accessories and placed ninth in the Apparel and Accessories Marketing Master Employee Competition.

A project Schwasinger and Ruby Fuentes, who graduated last year, entered in the competition last year won first place in the state and was ranked 24th in the nation. Schwasinger, who is president of her DECA class, said this year's project is bigger and better.

The national competition will start in late April, with the competition held near Disneyland.

Other results of the state competition include:

Destiny Wing and Lisa Bennetts, third place overall for their Creative Marketing project; Sharon Ries and Cathy Lovins, seventh place overall for their Public Relations project; Chris Engel, seventh place overall for his General Marketing Research project; Schwasinger and Blake Helderman, Chapter Service awards, Schwasinger, ninth place for herrole play in Business Services Marketing.

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