Columbia Area Career Center’s DECA Students set district record for most students qualifying for state competition

Hannah Johnson, Kristi Denke and Scott Fuenhausen, DECA Advisors for Columbia Area Career Center, are proud to announce the results of the DECA District 2 competition that was held on Wednesday, February 7 at the Holiday Inn EXPO Center in Columbia. More than 225 students from District 2 competed in the day-long event including DECA members from the Battle, Hickman and Rock Bridge DECA chapters. Students finishing the top two in each event advance to the State Career Development Conference on March 11 in Kansas City, MO for the chance to move on to International Career Development Conference which will be held in Atlanta, GA in April.

The following DECA students qualified for state:

**Individual Events:**

**Human Resource Management**
1st place: Zachare Bartman (Rock Bridge)
2nd place: Conor Byrne (Hickman)

**Apparel & Accessories Marketing**
1st place: Preston Roberts (Hickman)

**Automotive Services**
1st place: Eric Estrada (Rock Bridge)
2nd place: Matt Hall (Rock Bridge)

**Business Services Marketing**
1st place: Siddhant Chaurasia (Rock Bridge)
2nd place: Claire Nieder (Hickman)

**Marketing Communications**
1st place: Kate Walter (Rock Bridge/Christian Fellowship)

**Restaurant and Food Service Management**
1st place: Ashley Arneson (Rock Bridge)
2nd place: Isaac Martin (Rock Bridge)

**Hotel & Lodging Management**
1st place: Jessica Kanne (Hickman)
2nd place: Abby Hinshaw (Hickman)

**Sports & Entertainment Marketing (individual series)**
1st place: Noah Horton (Rock Bridge)
2nd place: Matt Kastens (Hickman)
Food Marketing Series
1st place: Elisabeth Glass (Rock Bridge)
2nd place: Alex Geyer (Rock Bridge)

Business Financial Services
1st place: Matt Gibson (RB/Fr. Tolton)
2nd place: Pranav Patel (Rock Bridge)

Quick Serve Restaurant Management
1st place: Jackson Gysbers (Rock Bridge)

Entrepreneurship
2nd place: Sam Rentschler (Rock Bridge)

Principles of Business Management & Administration
1st place: Sonya Hu (Rock Bridge)
2nd place: Rose Chambers (Hickman)

Principles of Hospitality & Tourism
2nd place: Jacob Clemons (Rock Bridge)

Principles of Marketing
1st place: Ethan Hayes (Rock Bridge)
2nd place: Grace Bailey (Rock Bridge)

Principles of Finance
1st place: Joshua Vincent (Rock Bridge)
2nd place: Price Phillips (Hickman)

Team Events:

Business Law & Ethics
1st place: Evan Abernathy & Jackson Greer (Rock Bridge)
2nd place: Jonathan Lahue & Quinton Liddle (Rock Bridge)

Buying & Merchandising
1st place: Caitlin Fogue & Hailey Lyman (Hickman)
2nd place: Jake Ripley & Connor Buckley (Rock Bridge)

Entrepreneurship
1st place: Cami Alderson & Olivia Rothwell (Rock Bridge)
2nd place: Gavin Buxman & Grant Paten (Hickman)

Financial Analysis
1st place: Walter Bratrud & Fletcher Orr (Hickman)
2nd place: Tony Gan & Bryce Raube (Rock Bridge)
Hospitality Services
1st place: Kennedy Grieman & Lauren Reynolds (Rock Bridge)
2nd place: Paityn Alexander & Kate Conley Hughes (Rock Bridge)

Sports & Entertainment (team)
1st place: Tyler Montgomery & Drew Gilliland (Hickman)
2nd place: Max Simmons & Henry Wilson (Rock Bridge)

Travel & Tourism
2nd place: Reagan Allen & Katherine Mehle (Rock Bridge)

Marketing Management
1st place: Caleb Mitchell & Jasper Schomaker (Hickman)
2nd place: Grant Fougere & Adam Richenberger (Rock Bridge)

Four Students also dual-qualified in two written events:

Independent Business Plan
1st place: Team of Sonya Hu, Pranav Patel & Joshua Vincent (Rock Bridge)

Innovation Plan
1st place: Siddhant Chaurasia (Rock Bridge)

Third Place finishers: (medaled but do not qualify for state)
Kameron Farid – Business Services Marketing – Rock Bridge
Jake Fraunfelder – Marketing Communications – Rock Bridge
Carter Abernathy – Sports & Entertainment – Rock Bridge
Christopher Holt – Principles of Marketing – Rock Bridge
Avery Snieder & Anna Kate Sundvold – Buying & Merchandising Team – Rock Bridge
Bettie Logan & Sean Richenberger – Entrepreneurship Team – Rock Bridge
Billie Huang & Lindsey States – Hospitality Team – Rock Bridge
Trent Dunlap & Hannah Pate – Marketing Communications Team – Rock Bridge
Alex Schweikert & Barrett Smith – Sports and Entertainment Team – Rock Bridge
Will Studer – Quick Serve Restaurant – Hickman
Jack Curtis & Jonny Pescaglia – Business Law & Ethics Team – Hickman
Alexis Morris – Restaurant & Food Service Mgmt. – Battle
Charbel Nabhan & Nicole Sachdev – Travel & Tourism Team - Battle

The DECA competition is divided into two parts. Students first take an exam which tests basic marketing knowledge. The second portion of the competition is “role play” where students are given a marketing situation in which they must develop a solution and then present that solution to a judge who rates their solution. The final score is a combination of the two parts.