

**NEWS RELEASE**

For additional information, please contact David Jespersen by phone (402-471-4537) or email (david.jespersen@nebraska.gov)

May 15, 2018

**NEBRASKA DECA STUDENTS PERFORM WELL AT NATIONALS**

Nebraska DECA brought 305 students to compete in the International Career Development Conference April 21-24 in Atlanta, Georgia. Nebraska students joined more than 19,000 members, advisers, business partners, and spectators at the World Congress Center and Mercedes-Benz Stadium.

DECA Competitive events contribute to the development of competencies needed for careers in marketing, management, and entrepreneurship by evaluating student achievement of these competencies and providing opportunities for student recognition. These competitive events also motivate students to assume responsibility and self-discipline while assisting in the development of a healthy self-concept and helping members participate in an environment of cooperation and competition. Nebraska students participated in marketing, finance, and hospitality management events.

Congratulations to Nebraska’s Vice President of Membership, Maddie Elbracht and her partner Morgan Murphy from Lincoln Southeast for placing in the top eight in Hospitality Team Decision Making and placing in the top five percent in the world.

**Finalists:**

* Ellie Hellman, Omaha Westside, Public Relations Project
* Kelli Smith, Samantha Chaney, and Trinity Torres, Bellevue West, Public Relations Project
* Adam Folsom and Nick Lamb, Omaha Westside, Entrepreneurship Promotion Project
* Aliyah White and Hailey Tierra, Omaha Westside, Fashion Merchandising Promotion Plan
* Patricia Angle, Papillion La Vista High School , Sports and Entertainment Marketing Series
* Megan Schuette, Millard West, Restaurant Full Serve Management
* Maddie Elbracht and Morgan Murphy, Lincoln Southeast, Hospitality Team Decision Making
* Kyler Choquette and Lauren Unverzagt, Papillion La Vista High, Entrepreneurship Team Decision Making
* Morgan Murphy, Lincoln Southeast was awarded the J. Willard and Alice S. Marriott Foundation travel scholarship worth $750

**Largest Chapter Growth in Nebraska**

Omaha Benson

**Largest Chapter in Nebraska**

Omaha Westside

**Top 20%**

* Jessica Chen, Lincoln East, Principles of Finance
* Samantha Kier, Central City, Quick Serve Restaurant Management
* Kayle Bryd, Delaney Williams, and Kyle Beck, Bellevue West, Creative Marketing Project
* Ainsley Smith and Kiley Dinsmore, Bellevue West, Learn and Earn Project
* Matthew Koenigsman, Emma Allison, and Michael Smilko, Bellevue West, Sports and Entertainment Research Project
* Lauren Baker, Sarah Betts, Elissa Calpin, Millard West, Public Relations Project
* Leah Newell, Hunter Smith, Millard West, Hospitality Operations Research Event
* Elise Fricke, Millard West, Hotel and Lodging Event
* Meghan Schuette, Millard West, Restaurant Full Serve Management
* Jared Dumont, Ryan DelRosario, and Kalynn Ripley, Bellevue West, Community Service Project
* Lexy Lopez, Bellevue West, International Business Plan
* Noah Hammond, Bellevue West, Franchising Business Plan
* Jordan Higginbotham, Bellevue West, Principles of Business Administration
* Daniel Campbell and Emily Schiefeilbein, Bellevue West, Financial Operations Research Project
* Josh Swirczek and Graysen Ragone, Bellevue West, Sports and Entertainment Research Project
* Maggie Targy and Paige Proskel, Bellevue West, Entrepreneurship Promotion Plan
* Hanna Madison and Brooke Coakley, Bellevue West, Business and Merchandising Operations Research Project
* Julia Mathemeier, Bellevue West, Start Up Business Plan
* Trey Foose, Omaha Benson, Personal Financial Literacy
* Nolan Anderson, Papillion La Vista, Automotive Services Marketing
* Hannah Baily and Zach Zielinski, Papillion La Vista, Hospitality Team Decision Making
* Ben Dalton, Austin Slie, and Jack Hansen-Reed, Bellevue East, in Community Service Project (CSP)
* Anna Schreck and Jack Buglewicz, Bellevue East, Advertising Campaign (ADC)
* Grace Wilson, Adam Parette, and Conner Brown, Bellevue East, Financial Literacy Promotion Plan (FLPP)
* CJ Semanko and Jackson Van Holland, Bellevue East, Sports and Entertainment Promotion Plan (SEPP)
* Adrianna Mcking, Bellevue East, Quick Serve Restaurant Management

####

*David Jespersen
Public Information Officer, Nebraska Department of Education
402-471-4537**david.jespersen@nebraska.gov* *@NDE\_News*