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Montana DECA Students Shine on International Stage at 2025 DECA International Career Development Conference

Orlando, FL — April 29, 2025 — Montana DECA students made their mark on the international stage this week at the 2025 DECA International Career Development Conference (ICDC) in Orlando, Florida, where they competed among over 24,000 top-performing student leaders from across the globe.

A total of 229 Montana DECA members from high schools and colleges across the state earned the opportunity to compete at ICDC after advancing through rigorous state-level competitions. The students represented Montana with pride in a range of events including Marketing, Finance, Hospitality, Business Management, Entrepreneurship, and Personal Financial Literacy.

Several Montana students received top honors, earning finalist recognition, top placements, and top performance in their respective competitive categories. Their success reflects the strength and quality of business education in Montana's schools and the commitment of DECA advisors statewide. In addition to overall finalists, 74 Montana DECA Students Received the DECA Award of Excellence for their performance in their case-study and business plan competitions.

“We are incredibly proud of our Montana DECA members and their exceptional performance at ICDC,” said John Stiles, Montana DECA State Director. “Their success on the international level speaks volumes about their dedication, professionalism, and the future of leadership in our state, as well as the strength of business and career/technical organizations in Montana.”

In addition to competition, Montana DECA students participated in leadership academies, career development workshops, and networking events with college recruiters and business professionals, gaining valuable experience that will support their academic and professional journeys.

The Grand Awards Session of the International Career Development Conference will be [live streamed here](#), as finalists compete for international championship titles.

Montana Finalists:

- Kayla Lobb & Rhea Lowe | Gallatin High School
Marketing Management Team Decision Making (International Top 10)

- Lenamarie Ellis | Gallatin High School
Integrated Marketing Campaign - Service (International Top 10)

Top Role-Play Presentation(s)

- Ezra Graham | Gallatin High School
Food Marketing
- Reagan Flentie | Bozeman High School
Restaurant Food Services Management
- Madison Clement | Capital High School
Principles of Business Management & Administration

ICDC serves as the culminating experience of the DECA year and is one of the largest educational conferences of its kind. Montana DECA's strong presence and success this year once again highlight the state's commitment to preparing the next generation of business leaders.

DECA Competition Award of Excellence

Belt High School

- Emerson Hoerner | Sports & Entertainment Marketing Team Decision Making
- Walker Maki | Automotive Services Marketing Series
- Vannie Urick | Sports & Entertainment Marketing Team Decision Making

Big Sky High School

- Sam Symington | Business Finance Series

Bozeman High School

- Elsa Austin | Buying & Merchandising Team Decision Making
- Siri Bateson | Financial Consulting
- Truman Dickerson | Financial Services Team Decision Making
- Valentina Duval | Entrepreneurship Series
- Arlee Epler | Marketing Management Team Decision Making
- Reagan Flentie | Restaurant Food Services Management Series
- Griffin Fosdal | Financial Services Team Decision Making
- Gracie Gaylord | Travel & Tourism Team Decision Making
- William Haught | Travel & Tourism Team Decision Making
- Giavanna Jacobs | Hospitality & Tourism Team Decision Making
- Danika Johnson | Integrated Marketing Campaign - Product
- Lucas Kadilak | Travel & Tourism Team Decision Making
- Tristan Klem | Buying & Merchandising Team Decision Making
- Valentin Kunze | Business Law & Ethics Team Decision Making

- Florentin Kunze | Business Law & Ethics Team Decision Making
- Ella Lee | Marketing Management Team Decision Making
- Gabrielle LeQuesne | Principles of Finance
- Hazel Nash | Integrated Marketing Campaign - Product
- Maeve O'Brien | Marketing Management Team Decision Making
- Aja Petersen | Hospitality Services Team Decision Making
- Owen Sample | Automotive Services Marketing Series
- Emily Stanley | School Based Enterprise - Food Operations
- Annika Swandal | Integrated Marketing Campaign - Product
- Scarlett Thorning | Marketing Management Team Decision Making
- Ben Wheeler | Travel & Tourism Team Decision Making

Capital High School

- Madison Clement | Principles of Business Management & Administration
- Katie Kananen | Professional Selling
- Hailey Sorenson | School Based Enterprise - Food Operations
- Alex Springfield | School Based Enterprise - Food Operations

Flathead High School

- Hudson Capser | Principles of Business Management & Administration
- Colton Crandall | Entrepreneurship Team Decision Making
- Miles Flake | Entrepreneurship Team Decision Making
- Kolbe Ghekiere | Innovation Plan
- Matthew Himsl | Hospitality Services Team Decision Making
- Brett Pesola | Business Services Marketing
- Cameron Wells | Hospitality Services Team Decision Making

Gallatin High School

- Reese Dennee | Sports & Entertainment Marketing Team Decision
- Lenamarie Ellis | Integrated Marketing Campaign - Service
- Ezra Graham | Food Marketing Series
- Cooper Jones | Business Services Marketing
- Aiden Kuntz | Integrated Marketing Campaign - Product
- Kayla Lobb | Marketing Management Team Decision Making
- Rhea Lowe | Marketing Management Team Decision Making
- Abid Mehmood | Professional Selling
- Sam Nassar | Business Law & Ethics Team Decision Making
- Lola Pizzato-Smith | Buying & Merchandising Team Decision Making
- Helen Raaf | Buying & Merchandising Team Decision Making
- Dylan Rosenzweig | Financial Services Team Decision Making
- Wade Stohlmann | Automotive Services Marketing Series
- Kira Tsukamoto | Integrated Marketing Campaign - Service

- Shelby Tyler | Financial Services Team Decision Making
- Lydia Wadsworth | Sports & Entertainment Marketing Team Decision
- Miles Weber | Business Services Marketing
- Sophie Woodard | Business Law & Ethics Team Decision Making

Glacier High School

- Jaela Armstrong | Principles of Marketing
- Carl Bitney | Sports & Entertainment Marketing Team Decision Making
- Tyron Byers | Start-Up Business Plan
- Owen Carpenter | Hospitality Services Team Decision Making
- Calvin Casey | Business Law & Ethics Team Decision Making
- Sam Engellant | Sports & Entertainment Marketing Team Decision Making
- Kennady Garvin | Business Law & Ethics Team Decision Making
- Yris Hadziomerovic | Hospitality & Tourism Professional Selling
- Lli Hoerth | Principles of Hospitality & Tourism
- Brayden Jenkinson | Sports & Entertainment Marketing Series
- Josh Lee | Hospitality Services Team Decision Making
- Michael Pendergrass | Start-Up Business Plan
- Anya Rountree | Principles of Finance
- Jack Syverson | Human Resources Management
- Carsen Wenz | Sports & Entertainment Marketing Series
- AJ Zlogar | Personal Financial Literacy

Helena High School

- Meadow Brown-Wilson | Principles of Marketing
- Mackenzie Groom | School Based Enterprise - Food Operations
- Cate Hardan | Hotel & Lodging Management Series
- Michael Leyva | School Based Enterprise - Food Operations
- Layla Riggs | Human Resources Management Series

Stevensville High School

- Jake Gavlak | Travel & Tourism Team Decision Making
- Makenna Monroe | Start-Up Business Plan
- Angus Trangmoe | Travel & Tourism Team Decision Making

Whitefish High School

- Ava Bee | School Based Enterprise - Retail Operations
- Luke Healy | Financial Services Team Decision Making
- Zoey Marzo | Apparel & Accessories Marketing Series
- Marcus Mercer | Principles of Business Management & Administration
- Cole Moses | Financial Services Team Decision Making
- Lauren Rossi | Hotel & Lodging Management Series

- Lyla Rudolph | Apparel & Accessories Marketing Series
- Iona Sarraille | Integrated Marketing Campaign - Event
- Vanessa Solomon | Integrated Marketing Campaign - Event
- Maggie Zonich | School Based Enterprise - Retail Operations

For more information about Montana DECA, visit www.mtdeca.org

About Montana DECA

Montana DECA is a state chapter of DECA Inc., a global organization that prepares high school and college students for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management. Through competitive events, leadership training, and hands-on learning, Montana DECA equips students with the skills necessary for success in both college and careers.