



## PRESS RELEASE

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## Montana DECA Members Earn Top Recognition at DECA’s International Career Development Conference

Montana DECA members earned the organization’s highest honors at DECA’s (Distributive Education Clubs of America) annual International Career Development Conference (ICDC) in Anaheim, CA April 26-May 1, 2024.

(203) statewide students represented Montana at the International Level, with (2) Top-10 Finishes, (6) Top-20 Finishes, (5) Top-12 Case Study Presentations, and (125) Awards of Excellence.

During the school year, approximately 224,000 of DECA’s 261,000 high school student members take part in the organization’s competitive events program, allowing them to compete for local, regional and association titles. The competitions are designed to simulate real-life business scenarios and test students’ academic understanding and skills development. The top association winners put their talents to the test during the program’s final round of competition in Anaheim, CA. The DECA International Career Development Conference was the pinnacle of competition where over **23,000 students vied for international honors**. Over \$300,000 in scholarships and awards were presented to students and teachers for their achievements.

### Students receiving top-recognition at the international level were:

Student Name	Event/Scholarship	Place/Honor/Sponsorship
<a href="#">Cole Woodward</a> Gallatin High School	Financial Services Team Decision Making	International Top 10 Finish & Top 12 Case-Study Presentation
<a href="#">Dylan Rosenzweig</a> Gallatin High School	Financial Services Team Decision Making	International Top 10 Finish & Top 12 Case-Study Presentation
<a href="#">Blake Lindemann</a> Glacier High School	Hospitality Services Team Decision Making	International Top 20 Finish
<a href="#">Kevin Fortin</a> Glacier High School	Hospitality Services Team Decision Making	International Top 20 Finish

<b>Leland Lammers</b> Bozeman High School	Marketing Management Team Decision Making	Top 12 Marketing Exam Score
<b>Emery Streets</b> Gallatin High School	Independent Business Plan	International Top 20 Finish
<b>Lyla Streets</b> Gallatin High School	Independent Business Plan	International Top 20 Finish
<b>Katie Wrench</b> Gallatin High School	Independent Business Plan	International Top 20 Finish
<b>Scott Voigt</b> Gallatin High School	Automotive Services Marketing	International Top 20 Finish & Top 12 Case Study Presentation
<b>Micah Brooks</b> Flathead High School	Food Marketing Series	Top 12 Case-Study Presentation
<b>Jaydon Pesola</b> Flathead High School	Principles of Marketing	Top 12 Case-Study Presentation

The DECA Certificate of Excellence is awarded to competitors scoring a combined total score of 70% or greater on the competitive event components of their event. The following competitors were recognized:

#### **Belt High School**

- Emerson Hoerner | Financial Literacy Project
- Clayton Jassen | Sports & Entertainment Marketing Team Decision Making
- Walker Maki | Community Awareness Project
- Parker Osterman | Financial Literacy Project
- McKenzie Pogany | Community Awareness Project
- Vannie Urick | Automotive Services Marketing Series
- Addison Urick | Sports & Entertainment Marketing Team Decision Making

#### **Big Sky High School**

- Dreah Chiles | Start-Up Business Plan
- Kaydn Easter | Start-Up Business Plan
- Hayden Keintz | Start-Up Business Plan
- Adalyn Maxwell | Principles of Marketing
- Tennyson Smith | Sports & Entertainment Marketing Series

#### **Bozeman High School**

- Yasser Al-Kaisy | Marketing Management Team Decision Making
- Siri Bateson | Principles of Finance
- Kira Connell | Hospitality & Services Team Decision Making
- Olivia Davis | School Based Enterprise
- Valentina Duval | Food Marketing Series
- Arlee Epler | Integrated Marketing Campaign – Service
- Olivia Hall | Business Solutions Project
- John Hendricks | Independent Business Plan
- Giavanna Jacobs | Buying & Merchandising Operations Research
- Leland Lammers | Marketing Management Team Decision Making
- Ella Lee | Travel & Tourism Team Decision Making
- Logan Lynch | Independent Business Plan

- Maeve O'Brien | Integrated Marketing Campaign – Service
- Aja Petersen | Integrated Marketing Campaign – Service
- Macey Primrose | Travel & Tourism Team Decision Making
- Henry Riendeau | Sports & Entertainment Marketing Series
- Hudson Wiens | Independent Business Plan
- Kieran Williams | Business Growth Plan
- Tori Wilson | Buying & Merchandising Operations Research
- Addison Winter | School Based Enterprise
- Parker Yeomans | Automotive Services Marketing

#### CM Russell High School

- John Beurer | Travel & Tourism Team Decision Making
- Kyle Gilbertson | Travel & Tourism Team Decision Making
- Charley Gipe | Finance Operations Research
- Elly Martin | Finance Operations Research
- Clara Martin | Finance Operations Research
- Charlee Murray | Principles of Business Management & Administration

#### Capital High School

- Idil Birgul | School Based Enterprise
- Hailey Sorenson | School Based Enterprise

#### Flathead High School

- Luke Banks | Innovation Plan
- Jack Blodgett | Entrepreneurship Series
- Pazylee Boyce | Entrepreneurship Team Decision Making
- Micah Brooks | Food Marketing Series
- Carter Bullins | Buying & Merchandising Team Decision Making
- Miller Bushnell | Buying & Merchandising Team Decision Making
- Hannah Cantrell | Hospitality Services Team Decision Making
- Easton Capser | Entrepreneurship Team Decision Making
- Chloe Converse | Innovation Plan
- Matthew Himsl | Innovation Plan
- Andrew Johnson | Community Awareness Project
- Amelia Mason | Entrepreneurship Team Decision Making
- David Moody | Entrepreneurship Team Decision Making
- Jaydon Pesola | Principles of Marketing
- Alessandro Pipolo | Buying & Merchandising Team Decision Making
- Ali Putzler | Community Awareness Project
- Adison Siegel | Innovation Plan
- Mia Stephan | Community Awareness Project
- Sienna Sterck | Hospitality Services Team Decision Making
- Celie VandenBosch | Innovation Plan
- Cameron Wells | Innovation Plan
- Jaden Williams | Buying & Merchandising Team Decision Making

#### Gallatin High School

- Mikey Andersen | Business Services Marketing
- Keira Appleton | Business Solutions Project
- Lily Barnes | Marketing Management Team Decision Making
- Jillian Bottcher | Business Growth Plan
- Jackson Butler | Financial Literacy Project

- Karis Emerling | Financial Consulting
- Lacy Faircloth | Travel & Tourism Team Decision Making
- Ava Flohr | Business Solutions Project
- Auna Flohr | Business Solutions Project
- Jenna Gollofon | Restaurant & Food Services Management Series
- Carys Griswold | Hospitality & Tourism Professional Selling
- Meghan Hardin | Business Law & Ethics Team Decision Making
- Khloie Ischer | Financial Literacy Project
- Adelaide Koontz | Business Law & Ethics Team Decision Making
- Bailey Kumlien | Financial Literacy Project
- Kayla Lobb | Entrepreneurship Team Decision Making
- Rhea Lowe | Entrepreneurship Team Decision Making
- Sam Nassar | Principles of Business Management & Administration
- Dylan Rosenzweig | Financial Services Team Decision Making
- Aidan Runyon | Marketing Management Team Decision Making
- Grace Ryan | Travel & Tourism Team Decision Making
- Lyla Streets | Independent Business Plan
- Emery Streets | Independent Business Plan
- Evie Taylor | Principles of Hospitality & Tourism
- Shelby Tyler | Business Law & Ethics Team Decision Making
- Scott Voigt | Automotive Services Marketing Series
- Sophie Woodard | Business Law & Ethics Team Decision Making
- Cole Woodward | Financial Services Team Decision Making
- Katie Wrench | Independent Business Plan

#### Glacier High School

- Katy Bitney | Community Giving Project
- Jack Boone | Hospitality & Tourism Operations Research
- Sophia Bourriague | Restaurant Food Services Management Series
- Owen Carpenter | Business Finance Series
- Alyssa Conrad | Hospitality & Tourism Operations Research
- Carmen Eddy | Hospitality Services Team Decision Making
- Meyer Fauth | Sports & Entertainment Marketing Team Decision Making
- Kevin Fortin | Hospitality Services Team Decision Making
- Kennady Garvin | Principles of Business Management & Administration
- Quindy Gronley | Sports & Entertainment Marketing Team Decision Making
- Connor Howard | Business Services Operations Research
- Jakoby Isles | Marketing Communications Series
- Maya Kinkaid | Hospitality & Tourism Operations Research
- Josh Lee | Retail Merchandising Series
- Blake Lindemann | Hospitality & Services Team Decision Making
- Logan Marlow | Business Services Marketing Series
- Tanyon Murray | Business Services Operations Research
- Nakiah Persinger | Business Services Operations Research
- Ethan Ronngren | Principles of Finance
- Emmerly Schmidt | Hospitality Services Team Decision Making
- Elise Strobel | Community Giving Project
- Kaden Wack | Sports & Entertainment Marketing Series

#### Great Falls High School

- Mara Campbell | Personal Financial Literacy
- Neva Clark | Retail Merchandising Series

#### Helena High School

- Michael Leyva | School Based Enterprise
- Matt Valasquez | School Based Enterprise

#### Stevensville High School

- Malia Gunterman | Business Law & Ethics Team Decision Making
- Nya Seibert | Business Law & Ethics Team Decision Making

#### Whitefish High School

- Ava Bee | Apparel & Accessories Marketing Series
- Bailey Kallal | Food Marketing Series
- Iona Sarraille | Restaurant Food Services Management Series
- CJ Thew | Sports & Entertainment Marketing Operations Research
- Raymond Zonich | Sports & Entertainment Marketing Operations Research

“Success in the 21<sup>st</sup> century economy requires more than just skills. It requires ethics, leadership and global awareness. That is what our students are learning and is on display at all of our DECA programs and events.”

-John Stiles, Montana DECA State Director

“Montana has a strong 75-year history of success rooted in preparation, hard work, and perseverance. This years international team was no exception. From the advisors in the classroom, to the students on the ground, this exceptional team brought great success to Montana”

-John Stiles, Montana DECA State Director

This year’s #DECAICDC featured over 23,000 members and advisors in attendance. In addition to career-based competition, DECA members engaged in leadership academies and networking opportunities with over 80 internationally-recognized businesses and universities.

#### **About DECA Inc.**

DECA is a career and technical student organization that prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs who are interested in careers in marketing, finance, hospitality and management. DECA enhances the preparation for college and careers by providing co-curricular programs that integrate into classroom instruction, apply learning, connect to business and promote competition. DECA student members leverage their experience to become academically prepared, community oriented, professionally responsible, experienced leaders. DECA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with over 240,000 members in 3,600 high school and college chapters in nearly all 50 United States, Canada, Puerto Rico, Guam and Germany.

For more information about DECA, visit [www.mtdeca.org](http://www.mtdeca.org).

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