
For Immediate Release
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PLANO MARKETING STUDENTS WIN IN INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

Plano West senior, Amanda Lu, took first place in the individual series event “Restaurant and Food Service Management” at the International DECA (a division of Distributive Education Clubs of America) Competition in Anaheim, CA on May 2, 2009. Plano West brought nine qualifiers to the national competition which boasts top academic talent from the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico.

“Amanda Lu’s victory is not only the first time in Plano West’s history...it’s the first time in *Plano’s* history that we have won an individual event at nationals,” says Merrilee Kick, the PWSH DECA Sponsor. “We are very proud of Amanda’s achievement – she’s just an amazing kid. We had some of the best students in our school competing here in Anaheim, and they all did very well.”

Amanda Lu is attending Harvard next fall on academic scholarships. She plans to attend Medical School after her bachelor’s degree.

In addition to Amanda Lu, there were nine other Plano West students qualifying for nationals: Josh Hu, Mimi Shen, Susan Chen, Christopher Hsieh, Sanchita Piplani, Alexa DiMaggio, Ashley Maybury, and Lanny Lang. Plano Senior High had ten students qualify for internationals: Asad Berani, Robert Erickson, Alex Hoffmann, Melinda Liu, Bhavesh Modi, Sri Sonti, Angel Wang, Matt Willardson, Sinclair Wu and UZ Zhan.

Plano East Senior High Hall of Fame and Academic All-American senior, Marissa Holden, placed top ten at the international conference in the “Business Basics” series event in the testing portion of her event. Marissa will be attending Illinois University on a soccer scholarship next fall. She will be pursuing a career in Finance.

Asad Berani, the Vice President of Community Service at PSHS DECA, was selected to attend the Leadership Development Academy. Through the training, Asad stated that he learned the value of networking by using effective communication and gained leadership skills that he plans to apply as an officer for next year.

Two Plano East juniors, Dominique Cooper and Jasmine Berry, were also selected to participate in the Leadership Academy. “I am so excited about next year and the opportunities DECA provides. At the international conference I learned that confidence is key. It was a life changing experience for me” says Jasmine Berry. During a 24 hour period, the Leadership Academy students raised over \$10,000 to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA). They learned many leadership skills and met many DECA students from all over the world.