



WEST BLOOMFIELD  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

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## WBSD DECA Students Earned Organizations Highest Honors at the International Conference

*West Bloomfield, MI* - Nineteen students represented West Bloomfield High School (WBHS) and the State of Michigan at DECA's annual International Career Development Conference (ICDC) in Atlanta, GA. April 23-26. The WBHS students earned the organization's highest honors at the International Conference this year! One student placed in the Top 20 in the world, several students placed in the Top 10, and three students won 1st Place in the Sports Virtual Business Challenge.

During the school year, 160,000 high school DECA students participate in the organization's [competitive events program](#), allowing them to compete for local, regional, and state titles. The competitions are designed to simulate real-life business scenarios and test students' academic understanding and skills development. The top state winners put their talents to the test during the program's final round of competition in Atlanta. The DECA International Career Development Conference was the pinnacle of competition, where nearly 18,000 students vied for international honors. Over \$300,000 in scholarships and awards were presented to students and teachers for their achievements.

### **Congratulations to the following students:**

Frank Bachulis, Virtual Business Challenges Sports, 1st Place

Madison Boyd, Innovation Plan

Mariah Carver, Innovation Plan

Aaryan Chandna, Virtual Business Challenge Sports, 1st Place

Lukas Graff, Virtual Business Challenge Sports, Top 10

Kulthoom Hussain, Integrated Marketing Campaign-Event

Amani Kayat, School-Based Enterprise-Retail Operations, Top 10

Joseph Kosh, Integrated Marketing Campaign-Event

Ryan Lynch, Integrated Marketing Campaign-Event

Jin Park, Virtual Business Challenge Sports, Top 10

Alexander Selektor, Virtual Business Challenge Sports, 1st Place

Milin Sharrow, Virtual Business Challenge Sports, Top 10  
Andrew Shore, Professional Selling Event, Test Medal  
Morgan Shropshire, Hospitality and Tourism Professional Selling, Top 20  
Jack Stuit, Integrated Marketing Campaign-Event  
Safa Syed, Integrated Marketing Campaign-Event  
Shyanne Taylor, Innovation Plan  
Sophia Watha, School-Based Enterprise-Retail Operations, Top 10

“The competition was like no other this year. I’ve never seen our chapter come together and present themselves so well both in and out of the conference. We were one, whether rehearsing for events or spending time together. I felt proud knowing the students felt they were part of something meaningful,” stated Frank Bachulis.

“I am so proud of the hard work and dedication our students and advisors put in this year. It had been three years since we had the opportunity to compete in person. It was great to be back in person and for students to get the full DECA experience. Watching students create new friendships from within our school, network with those around the world, and carry themselves in such a professional manner was truly a pleasure to watch,” stated Julie Zalla, WBHS DECA Advisor.

WBHS’s DECA program has been preparing emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management for 49 years. Business Teachers serve as DECA advisors and share their prior experience working in various fields of business with their student body, preparing them for success outside the classroom. Well over 500 students have earned International recognition, college scholarships, prizes, and collegiate success within West Bloomfield’s Business Academy. Students can participate in the co-curricular program by enrolling in Marketing, Advanced Marketing, Sports and Entertainment Marketing, Fashion Merchandising, Advanced Placement Macro/Micro Economics, Personal Finance, or Growing Your Own Business.

About DECA Inc.

DECA is a career and technical student organization that prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs interested in careers in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management. Learn more at <http://www.deca.org>.

For more information about the West Bloomfield School District, please visit [www.wbsd.org](http://www.wbsd.org).

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