

SSHS: 4 BPA students qualify for national conference

Written by Compiled from information submitted by Tracy Stewart, SSHS BPA advisor and career and technology education teacher

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Four members of the Sulphur Springs High School Chapter of Business Professionals of America scored high enough at state to advance to the national leadership conference, five others were named as national alternates either in individual or team competition, one student earned the Statesman Torch Award and a dozen students were noted for their participation in a walk to benefit Special Olympics.

“Students from our Sulphur Springs High School chapters of Business Professionals of America are an outstanding group of future business professionals,” said chapter advisor Jenny Arledge, who teaches Accounting I and II as well as business information management. “These students have worked hard to learn what it takes to be a professional and have attained the business skills needed to earn their positions at the state level of competition, which emphasizes business workforce education and training.”

Qualifying for national competition are Hunter Allen, Rebecca Halter, Karl Sehnert and Magan Smith. Sehnert advanced after taking first place honors in computer security at the state convention, Allen with a second place finish in human resource management, Halter third in database applications and Smith as the third-ranked administrative support research individual.

Halter also received special recognition for earning the Statesman Torch Award. Given at the state level, the Statesman Torch Award requires 50 points in each of the seven “Torch” categories — leadership; service; cooperation; knowledge; friendship; love, hope, faith; and patriotism. A statesman is defined by www.bpa.org as “one who is a leader in the promotion of the public good and in national affairs.”

SSHS students named as national alternates based on their state rankings were Macy Johnston, Morgan Owens, Deketra Mosley, Abbey Martin and Nima Sherpa. Johnston and Owens were ranked the fourth place administrative support team at the state convention. Martin finished fourth in digital media production. Mosley finished seventh in advanced interview skills. Sherpa was named an alternate in payroll accounting after finishing sixth at state and also finished seventh in the open event of financial math and analysis concepts.

Also competing at the state level were the following students in their respective events: Hunter Allen in economic research team, Alexis Clayton in advanced office systems and procedures, Hagen Clevenger in basic office systems and procedures, Vivi Cruz in advanced word processing, Jordan Eckerd in C ++ programming, JT Grant in banking and finance, Iris Gutierrez in advanced spreadsheet applications, Rebecca Halter in economic research team, Sam Hammons in broadcast news production team, Mikayla Jones in database applications, Shannon Lucas in fundamental accounting, Morgan Owens in advanced office systems and procedures, Zaveria Sims in legal office procedures, Magan Smith in economic research team, Taylor Swinson in economic research team, Jacqueline Tovar-Yanez in JAVA programming, Rachel Winborn in broadcast news production team and Tino Zapata in banking and finance.

A dozen SSHS students were also noted for their participation in the state level “\$10 for 10

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Blocks — Walk for Winners” event, one of the challenges at regional, state and national BPA levels designed to raise funds for Special Olympics. Mikayla Jones, Iris Gutierrez, Tino Zapata, Hagen Clevenger, Shannon Lucas, Karl Sehnert, Nima Sherpa and Rachel Winborn participated in the walk. JT Grant, Macy Johnston, Abbey Martin, and Morgan Owens also participated in the fundraiser. A drawing was held for special prizes among those who walked. Iris Gutierrez won an iPad, Shannon Lucas won a \$50 gift card, and both Mikayla Jones and Rachel Winborn won \$25 gift cards.

Business Professionals of America is a national organization for high school, college and middle school students preparing for careers in business and information technology. The organization's activities and programs complement classroom instruction by giving students practical experience through application of the skills learned at school. Business Professionals of America acts as a cohesive agent in the nationwide networking of education and business and industry. BPA is contributing to the preparation of a world-class workforce through the advancement of leadership, citizenship, academic and technological skills.

Overall, 23 of SSHS BPA Chapter's 66 members joined over 2,500 other conference delegates from across the state at the Business Professionals of America 2014 State Leadership Conference, "Accelerate Your Future," March 5-8 in Houston, where they participated in state level business skills competitions, internships, general sessions, and state officer candidate campaigns and elections. Besides having the opportunity to excel, they experienced some of the sites in downtown Houston and neighboring Meyerland Plaza.

Those qualifying will make the trip to Indianapolis, Ind., April 30-May 4 for the national BPA leadership convention.