

## Three SSHS students honored at BPA nationals

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Three students from Sulphur Springs High School earned recognition at the Business Professionals of America 2014 National Leadership Conference.

“All three students strongly represented Texas in their various BPA events,” noted Kendra Daniel, SSHS marketing education teacher, who along with teacher Lynn Smith accompanied the students to the national meet April 30-May 4 in Indianapolis.

These three top BPA students advanced to nationals after scoring high at the state meet.

Magan Smith, who serves as vice president of the SSHS BPA chapter, was recognized as the first place individual in the administrative support research project event. She advanced to nationals as third ranked administrative support research individual at state.

Hunter Allen finished fourth at nationals in human resource management, a category he placed second in at state.

Rebecca Halter, SSHS BPA secretary, competed in database applications at nationals, advancing from state as the third ranked individual in the category. Halter received the Statesman Torch Award at the March 5-8 state meet in Houston and the Ambassador Torch Award at the national conference in Indiana.

Business Professionals of America’s Torch Awards Program frames and guides a BPA member’s leadership and service to their chapter and community. Students complete activities in the seven Torch categories — leadership; service; cooperation; knowledge; friendship; love, hope and faith; and patriotism — then log their activities in an online Torch resume. Each activity is worth points. When a student achieves a certain number of points for each category, his/her advisor or local reviewer can submit the resume online to be reviewed for recognition. All students completing a satisfactory resume will receive each torch awards, according to [www.bpa.org](http://www.bpa.org).

Students receive an executive Torch Award, presented at the chapter level, when the BPA member has attained 10 points in each torch category. Diplomat awards are presented at the state level when the student has 30 points in each torch category. The Statesman Torch Award is given at the state level to individuals who have 50 points in each category. To receive an Ambassador Torch Award, the BPA student must have 70 points in each torch category. Students receive a pin and certificate at each level.

Students receiving the Ambassador Torch Award received their pin and certificate at the National Leadership Conference in Indianapolis, Ind., April 30-May 4, 2014. They also were invited to the Honor Recipient Celebration, a reception at NLC in their honor. “Most importantly, though, a student participating in the Torch Awards Program builds a rich catalog of service and leadership experience to be proud of,” according to [www.bpa.org](http://www.bpa.org).

This year’s theme was “Accelerate Your Future.” More than 5,000 delegates from across the nation participated in national level business skills competitions, workshops and general

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sessions.

Besides having the opportunity to excel, these SSHS students had the opportunity to visit the Indianapolis Zoo and Indiana State Museum.

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. BPA is contributing to the preparation of a world-class workforce through the advancement of leadership, citizenship, academic and technological skills.