

EDUCATION

East senior a state DECA champion

Joshua Simmons to go on to international career development competition

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THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN

On the heels of its state title in football comes an East High School DECA state championship.

Senior Joshua Simmons was crowned state champion in Financial

Consulting during a three-day state DECA competition at the Broadmoor Hotel in Colorado Springs.

Additionally, three members of the East DECA chapter — sophomores Adrienne Archuletta, Cora-Jane

Aubert and Olivia Bosco Jarman — earned international recognition for completing DECA's #OwnYourFuture chapter campaign.

In Colorado Springs, more than 2,500 DECA students from across the state competed in 50-

plus events in hopes of qualifying for the DECA International Career Development Conference in Anaheim, Calif., this spring.

The competition categories included Apparel and Accessories, Restaurant Management,

Hospitality, Travel and Tourism, Sports and Entertainment, Professional Sales and more.

Students were tested through a role-play scenario or business presentation and also were required to complete a 100-question test.

Simmons was tasked with helping a client decide between leasing or buying a new automobile; East's DECA chapter earned its honor through community service involvement and promotion of DECA within the

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COURTESY PHOTO

East High School senior Joshua Simmons celebrates being a state champion in Financial Consulting during the state DECA competition in Colorado Springs.

school and community.

The team will have the opportunity to present the campaign in the THRIVE Academy at the International Career Development Conference, where Simmons will compete in Financial Consulting.

“Joshua has been working hard at this event since his sophomore year, when he finished fifth at state,” said East DECA instructor Mike Patti. “And last year, he finished third. He told me then that if it keeps going the way it is, as a senior he’ll be first.

“Sure enough, through a lot of hard work and studying, he did. This is not an easy event for a high school student.”

Added Simmons, “At the beginning of sophomore year I thought DECA was going to be boring. But as I experienced what DECA truly was, it became more than a class; it became a part of who I am and led me to success inside DECA and out in the real world.”

From South High School, Tyler Alcon and Courtney Mascarenas were state DECA finalists in the Travel and Tourism category. And Centennial High School’s Kevin Hughes was a finalist in Principles of Marketing.

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