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5-20-2010

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SIFE, WKU

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Recommended Citation
SIFE, WKU and Schell, Director, Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation, J. Krist, "WKU SIFE Team Places Second At Nationals" (2010). *SIFE (Students In Free Enterprise)*. Paper 1.
http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/sife/1

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WKU SIFE Team Places Second At Nationals

May 20, 2010

Bowling Green, Ky. - With its highest-ever finish last week at the SIFE USA Nationals Competition in Minneapolis, Western Kentucky University's Student in Free Enterprise team becomes one of the top 40 teams in the country.

Taking second in its league of 10 teams in the first round, WKU SIFE now ranks in the top 7 percent of all SIFE teams at universities and colleges across the U.S. WKU earned its berth through an April win in regional competition in Atlanta.

Twenty first-place teams continued on to the semifinal round from a starting total of 169; Nashville's Belmont University was crowned the USA Champion, and will compete in October in Los Angeles at the SIFE World Cup.

There are some 550 active teams nationwide, and 1,500 teams worldwide in 40 countries, according to SIFE personnel. SIFE teams use the principles of free enterprise to solve problems challenging communities and nations across the world. The national organization is sponsored by many of the Fortune 500 firms who actively recruit SIFE graduates every year.

"It's been a long year but it's been worth it because our team performed so well. Even though we wanted to go further, we are still proud to represent WKU in the National Top 40," said WKU SIFE team CEO Joshua Shuck. "We had great projects, but it was the improved corporate style of presentation that really made the difference."

Team projects included leading Kelly Autism Program participants to create and manage their own business, traveling once a week to the Green River Correctional Center to assist inmates to develop career skills, and operating a successful venture, the SIFE PrintCenter in the Downing University Center.
WKU SIFE members traveling to Minneapolis were Amber Hanan of Tell City, Ind.; Meggan Selzer of Louisville; LaToya Valentin of Bowling Green; Danny Scott of Franklin; Jessica VanErden of Lexington; Joshua Shuck of Shelbyville; Samantha Culver of Bardstown; Laura Ringer of LaGrange; Chad Ball of Louisville; Scott Kercheville of Fayetteville, Ark.; Myron Williams of Louisville; Evan McGregory of Jeffersonville, Ind.; Christina Kerulis of Bowling Green; and Emily Jones of Minneapolis.

Gordon Ford College of Business faculty and staff accompanying the team were Sam Walton Fellow and Team Advisor J. Krist Schell, GFCoB Executive-In-Residence Chris Derry, and GFCoB Academic Advisor Sandy Patterson. The team is supported by the

Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation at WKU and the GFCoB Dean's Office.

For more information, contact WKU SIFE Chief Executive Officer Joshua W. Shuck at joshua.shuck750@wku.edu/502-220-1160 and www.sife.org.

More WKU news is available at www.wku.edu and at http://wkunews.wordpress.com/. If you'd like to receive WKU news via e-mail, send a message to WKUNews@wku.edu.

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