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# WESTWORD

## WEB EXCLUSIVES

# DECA members head to nationals

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Jessica Frank displays state awards.  
Photo courtesy Jessica Frank

Based on the results of the Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) statewide competition held on Thursday, March 6-8, in Decatur, 18 West students will advance to the International Career Development Conference in Atlanta, GA, on Saturday, April 26-29.

At the DECA state competition, students competed in a wide variety of events that pertained to business, marketing, economics and mathematics. Some students presented to a panel of judges research and projects they prepared and worked on throughout the school year. Other students participated in role-playing events where they were given business situations and came up with realistic solutions to them.

In order to qualify for nationals, students must have placed in the top three places in their event. The following students will compete in nationals: Justine Larson, Lisa Schutz and Becky Choe (second place, Community Service Project); Nadia Sarnecki, Michelle Poskrobko and Caroline Majerczyk (third place, Entrepreneurship Promotion Project); Zoe Ljubic, Greg Fleytlikh and Lauren Lagioia (third place, Creative Marketing Project); Chun Kim, Brian Kelinson and Emily Poskrobko (second place, Learn and Earn Project); Garrett Falcone, Joel Cohen and John Paul Monreal-Berner (third place, Learn and Earn Project); Karim Lakhani and Adil Ali (third place, Hospitality and Recreation Marketing); Jessica Frank (second place, Accounting Applications) and Brian Kelinson (third place, Apparel and Accessories Marketing).

Qualifiers expressed high hopes and confidence in their ability to win at nationals. "After all the work I have done, I am really excited. You do not get many opportunities like this," senior Chun Kim said. He is "90 percent sure that [his team] will win first place."

Senior Jessica Frank expressed similar sentiments. "This is really important. I am elated to spend five days in Georgia. I hope I do a lot better than last year," Frank said.