

February 4, 2010

JAMESTOWN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS HEADED TO MIAMI

BISMARCK – Jamestown’s #1 team “brought home the gold” in the hotly contested final round of the state LifeSmarts Championships held yesterday in Bismarck. Kindred’s #1 team placed second and the Jamestown #2 team came in third.

As state champions, the students from Jamestown will compete in the national LifeSmarts competition, which will be held in Miami Beach, Florida, April 24-27, 2010. The champion team members are: Spencer Kamoni, (Captain), Garth Allen, Chris Lane, Jennifer Neva, and Jamen Windish, lead by Coach Marchel Krieger.

Coach Krieger, who has been the Jamestown High School LifeSmarts coach for six years and brought two teams to the competition, said, “It was good to see both teams in the finals. They were second and third last year. We have been working on this since we came home last year. We had a goal – to get to nationals. This year, they did it.” Coach Krieger said team members have to make a difficult choice because the school’s prom is the same time as the national finals. Team captain Spencer Kamoni, who has never been on a plane said, without any hesitation, “I’m going to Miami!” Teammates Garth Allen and Jennifer Neva said prom was not the problem - they had to choose between staying home to compete in the science Olympiad and joining their teammates in Miami.

Teens from across the state first competed online for a chance to advance to the state championship; twelve teams from nine North Dakota high schools qualified for the state championship event. The teams battled through ten rounds, three of which went into tiebreakers, before the top three teams advanced to the final round. Students answered questions in six subject areas - personal finance, health, safety, the environment, technology, and consumer rights and responsibilities – such as “Your bones will continue to grow in density until what age? 10; 18; 30.” (The correct answer is “30.”)

LifeSmarts Quizmaster Parrell Grossman, director of the Consumer Protection Division, commented, “I think all the students are winners. They had to do an enormous amount of work to prepare for the competition, and the knowledge they gained will help them understand how the issues making headlines today will affect them and their communities tomorrow.”

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