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Ivy Tech Community College students capture prizes at statewide business competition

Students from Ivy Tech Community College Southern Indiana brought home national prizes again this year from the Business Professionals of America National Leadership Conference in Dallas, Texas, held June 17 to 21.

The students are all members of the Sellersburg chapter of the Business Professionals of America. Accompanying the students to the competition were Kenyatte Simuel, Director of Computer and Technology Services at Ivy Tech and Kerri Cokeley, who is a member of Ivy Tech's adjunct business faculty. Both are advisors to the BPA chapter. Rebekah Lynch, a former member of the business faculty who recently moved to Texas, also helped prepare students for the challenges of the competition.

"To have our students compete successfully on the national level speaks highly of their commitment and the quality of the faculty who are instructing them," said Dr. Rita Hudson Shourds, Chancellor of Ivy Tech Southern Indiana in Sellersburg. "We couldn't be more proud of their efforts."

Simuel, who was traveling with the students for the second consecutive year, said the students performed well against their peers, many from more prestigious universities. He's proud of the confidence they showed. "What BPA teaches students is how to present themselves and their skills in a confident way," Simuel said. "We believe this preparation will serve them well when they're securing future employment, and we're incredibly proud of their dedication and commitment to the competition."

Winners are listed as follows:

Katarina Lynch of Floyds Knobs won first place in Individual Presentation Management.

David White of Louisville won first place in Entrepreneurship.

Angela Penn of Borden won second place in advanced interview skills.

Misty Alexander of Salem, Shelia Rains-Pecord of Scottsburg and Heather Van Kampen of Clarksville won second place in Presentation Skills Management.

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Also, **Kevin Dahill of Corydon** served as an intern in the Business Professionals of America Leadership Academy, and Misty Alexander is now serving as President and Katarina Lynch is Vice President of the Indiana chapter of the Business Professionals of America.

About Ivy Tech

Ivy Tech Community College is the state's largest public post-secondary institution and the nation's largest singly-accredited statewide community college system with more than 130,000 students enrolled annually. Ivy Tech has campuses throughout Indiana. It serves as the state's engine of workforce development, offering affordable degree programs and training that are aligned with the needs of its community along with courses and programs that transfer to other colleges and universities in Indiana. It is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and a member of the North Central Association.