

# westwordonline

## News

### DECA garners state, national honors

Adina Klein  
Internet Editor

Niles West's DECA team returned from the recent state competition in Decatur, IL, with cache of medals and plaques, and several West students qualified for the group's national competition.

The three-day competition held March 4-6 consisted of competitions in several types of projects and role-playing experiences.

DECA members who moved on to the national contest include seniors Diana Heck, Kemal Peckovic, Glenn Yancy and Omar Salem. Heck and Peckovic's project and Yancy and Salem's project both qualified in the area of Creative Marketing. The Learn and Earn project by seniors Steve Jacobs and Katie Schuller also advanced. Role-playing projects that moved on to nationals include Apparel and Accessories, associate level, by senior Adil Lakhani and Food

Marketing, associate level, by senior Jeff Elster. Sports and Entertainment Marketing by juniors Marc Klein and Jacob Rukin also qualified for the national competition.

DECA sponsor Kay Coughlin was very happy with the accomplishments of her students.



**DECA trophy case boasts awards.**  
Photo by Natasha Shino

"We are all so proud of all of them. It was a pleasure working with them and they were all so dedicated. The trip was a lot of fun for all of us," Coughlin said.

Klein agrees.

"I'm really happy that I participated in DECA. It was a great experience and a lot of fun," Klein said.

Other students whose projects placed in the state competition but did not make it on to the next level include: senior Steve

Weidner, senior Adil Lakhani and junior Joey Wattenbarger (Civil Consciousness); seniors Lopa Pandya and Ambreen Lakhani (Retail Merchandising Research); seniors Jeff Elster and Nikodem (International Business); seniors Roxie Biberian, Kristina Roman and Lia Kasios (Entrepreneurship); Klein and Yancy (Civil Consciousness).

DECA members whose role-playing projects placed but did not advance include:

Steve Jacobs (Business Service Marketing), Yancy (Quick Serve Restaurant), Weidner (Food Marketing Associate Level) and Schuller and Nikodem (Hospitality Services).