

News Release

Students in Free Enterprise at the U of M Crookston Win Regional Competition for Tenth Consecutive Year

By Eric Burgess, Elizabeth Tollefson, Stephanie Onken on Friday, March 27, 2009

The University of Minnesota, Crookston Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) team



SIFE Team at Regional Competition: Row 1 (l to r) : Thomas Melhorn; Brittny Johnson; Mariam Maiga; Yu Xie, Eun Hy Kang; Raldy Romero; Row 2: Nikolay Seregin, Eric Burgess, Ph.D.; Enrique Julien; Calvin McMullen; Marshall Johnson; Matt Sperling; Row 3: Chansouda Rattanaovong; and Stephanie Onken

brought home its tenth regional championship trophy from the Regional Competition in Minneapolis March 20. This marks a decade of championships for the U of M, Crookston SIFE team.

The SIFE team now advances to the national competition in Philadelphia, Pa., May 10-12. As they did at regionals, the team will give a 24-minute multimedia presentation highlighting their year-long activities and projects that meet the criteria set by SIFE Headquarters. Twenty judges will be critiquing the team based on their portfolio of free enterprise service projects.

U of M, Crookston students demonstrated how their programs were making the world a better place one person at a time by helping others: learning how to succeed as an entrepreneur; acquiring the education and training needed to succeed; understanding the dynamics of free market economics; developing financial management skills necessary to achieve financial independence; and understanding that long-term success and prosperity are dependent on ethical business practices.

Members of the championship presentation team included Raldy Romero, Miami Springs, Fla.; Chansouda "Souda" Rattanaovong, Warroad, Minn.; Stephanie Onken, Round Lake, Minn.; Nikolay Seregin, Moscow, Russia; Mariam Maiga, Crookston, Minn.; and Calvin McMullan, Milledgeville, Ga. The technical support team included Enrique Julien, Miami, Fla.; and Matt Sperling, Crookston, Minn.

U of M, Crookston SIFE advisor and business instructor Eric Burgess, Ph.D., also joined the team, as well as Susan Brorson, Ph.D., professor and head of the Business Department, and students and SIFE members Brittny Johnson, Warroad, Minn.; Yu Xie, Hangzhou, China; Thomas Melhorn, White Bear Lake, Minn.; Marshall Johnson, Pomona, Cal.; and Eun Hye Kang, Seoul, South Korea.

SIFE is a nonprofit organization that supports and enables students to learn and teach about free enterprise in real world situations. SIFE challenges students on more than 1,800 college campuses worldwide to take what they have learned in the classroom and use it to improve the quality of life for people everywhere. Student projects are designed to teach people about free market economics, business success skills, entrepreneurship, financial literacy, business ethics, team sustainability and environmental sustainability.

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