

MEDIA ADVISORY
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Melrose High School Earns 2nd Place at National Economics Challenge
Team one of eight that competed in National Economics Challenge

In May, 2007, Melrose High School became Minnesota's sixth different school represented at the National Economics Challenge in New York City. The team of four Melrose students earned second place honors in the David Ricardo Division championship, competing against teams from Anamosa High School in Iowa, Iolani High School in Hawaii, and Wilton High School in Connecticut. The David Ricardo Division challenges single semester general economics students.

The final competition in New York City took place at the Science, Industry and Business Library on May 19-21, 2007. About 200 educators, students and economists attended the event which awarded over \$100,000 in U.S. Savings Bonds to the first and second place teams and their teacher-coaches for their winning efforts in the national and regional competitions. The final rounds employ a "college bowl" format as student teams are called upon to answer tough questions on complex economic concepts and theories involving Micro- and macroeconomics, international economics, and current events.

Coach Rob Bahr's students representing Melrose High School included Matt Herdering, Bryan Rausch, Michael Schwieters, and Kevin Welle. The eight teams that competed in the national competition previously won state and regional competitions, defeating nearly 1,000 teams from 37 states to advance to the championship series.

The road to the national tournament began with a qualifying round at St. Cloud State on April 3rd. There, two teams of Melrose students battled for the right to represent small schools in the Minnesota State Tournament. In the qualifying round, both Melrose teams easily defeated other small schools in the area, with one team earning a State Tournament berth.

The State Tournament was held on Tuesday, April 17th at the University of Minnesota St. Paul campus. At the state tournament, Melrose students outscored all others in individual scores and Kevin Welle earned the Economics Student of the Year Award by scoring 200 points out of a possible 300. The Melrose team easily defeated all small school contenders and even managed to outscore all large schools in the competition. This rare feat earned them the right to advance to the multi-state competition on April 22 in Minneapolis.

The Melrose team rolled up a big lead in the first three rounds of the David Ricardo Division at the multi-state competition. They then went on to win the quiz bowl 11-5 over Vestavia Hills High School of Alabama. In individual competition, Melrose students, Kevin Welle and Bryan Rausch, took the top two high individual awards in the David Ricardo Division. Upon his return to Melrose after the team emerged victorious from the multi-state competition in Minneapolis, junior Kevin Welle exclaimed, "Veni, Vidi, Vici." ("I came. I saw. I conquered.").

Economics Challenge is a program of the Minnesota Council on Economic Education. The program encourages and rewards with trophies and cash prizes the study of economics. Center-based contests are held at University of Minnesota, Duluth; Minnesota State University, Mankato; Minnesota State University, Moorhead; St. Cloud State University; and the University of St. Thomas. The national competition is sponsored by The Goldman Sachs Foundation and the National Council on Economic Education (NCEE) and, in Minnesota, by Ameriprise Financial and the Minnesota Council on Economic Education.