



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **SUPERINTENDENT SHAFER CONGRATULATES DISTRICT STUDENTS WHO COMPETED IN DECA'S REGIONAL CONFERENCE**

*24 students represent the district in regional competition, three advance to the state competition*

PATERSON – Superintendent of Schools Eileen Shafer today congratulated district high school students who competed in DECA's Northwest Regional Conference and qualified to compete in the statewide competition that is scheduled to begin in late February.

DECA (formerly known as Distributive Education Clubs of America) is a nonprofit organization that is dedicated to helping prepare young people for business careers and entrepreneurship.

Eight students from **Eastside High School** competed in the regional competition held in Secaucus on January 4th. Of those students, two qualified to participate in DECA's N.J. High School State Career Development Conference in Atlantic City. They are:

- **Jayley Holmes**, a junior, qualified in the Principles of Hospitality category.
- **Miranda Rodriguez**, a sophomore, qualified in the Quick Serve Restaurant Management Services category.

Sixteen students from **Kennedy High School** competed in the regional competition held in Secaucus on January 4th. Of those students, **Zaire Hernandez**, a senior, qualified in the Business Services category to participate in DECA's N.J. High School State Career Development Conference in Atlantic City.

"I want to congratulate our students for representing Paterson Public School so well in DECA's regional competition," said Schools Superintendent Eileen F. Shafer. "It takes a lot to come up with imaginative business ideas, work collaboratively with your peers, and present the end results to a panel of objective evaluators. That is why we are very proud of all of the students who participated in the regional competition, and we wish the very best of luck to those students who will compete at the state level next month. I want to thank all of the teachers and administrators who helped prepare the district's students for this competition."

Business Education Teachers Yvette Williams and Sylvia Ligon are the faculty advisors to the DECA Chapter at Eastside High School. They work closely with John Lopez, the Business Pathway Associate Supervisor at Eastside.

Business Education Teachers Diana Brown is the faculty advisor to the DECA Chapter at Kennedy High School, and she works closely with Martine Grant, a former DECA Chapter advisor who is now the Business Pathway Associate Supervisor at Kennedy. Business Teacher Edwin Hernandez, Special Education Teacher Reggie Hall, Vice Principal Tanya Greene, and Principal of Instruction Jorge Osoria also helped prepare the students for the regional competition.

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