

February 5, 2009

RAY HIGH SCHOOL REPEATS LIFESMARTS VICTORY

BISMARCK – Ray High School repeated last year’s champion efforts, winning the 2009 state LifeSmarts competition yesterday in Bismarck. The teams from Jamestown High School took second and third place.

As state champions, the Ray Jays will compete in the national LifeSmarts competition in St. Louis, Missouri, April 25-28, 2009. The champion team members are: Brian Viall (Captain), Samantha Heier, Daniel Johnson, Matt Perdue, and LeAndra Reinholdt, led by Coach Bernadette Perdue. Viall, Johnson and Reinholdt were on the 2008 team. Watching the students celebrate their victory, Coach Perdue, who also coached last year’s winning team, said, “I enjoy this competition because it challenges the students to study and think about issues that affect their daily lives.”

Ray High School senior and team captain Brian Viall said, “It’s great to see such heated competition and excitement about this area of knowledge because it shows the young generation has the knowledge and potential to be responsible adults.”

Teens from across the state first competed online for a chance to advance to the state championship; eleven teams from nine North Dakota high schools qualified for the state championship event. The teams battled through ten elimination rounds before the top three teams advanced to the final round. Students answered questions in five subject areas - personal finance, health and safety, the environment, technology, and consumer rights and responsibilities – such as “Foods that bear the radura logo have been: Treated by irradiation; Treated with pesticides; Organically grown?” (The correct answer is “Treated by irradiation.”)

The final score was Ray – 95, Jamestown #2 – 85, and Jamestown #1 – 80. Tate Carlson, team captain of the Jamestown High School #2 team said, “I think our team played well and it was a good experience.”

LifeSmarts Quizmaster Parrell Grossman, director of the Consumer Protection Division, offered congratulations to all LifeSmarts participants, saying, “There are no losers in the LifeSmarts competition. The students gained a better understanding of how national economic, environmental, and security issues affect local communities and learned how to avoid common consumer scams.”

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