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PEOPLE



SCCC Board of Trustees and administration laud Michael J. Grant Campus debate team

The Suffolk County Community College Board of Trustees and administration commended the Michael J. Grant Campus Speech and Debate team on its recent success.

The speech and debate team took home a collective seven trophies at the 2014 New England Forensics Championship at Suffolk University in Boston, Mass., on Feb. 8. Several team members will compete in the national championships later this spring.

"The team's skill and ultimate placement at the 2014 New England Forensics Championship will now see several team members advance to the National Championships in Michigan," said Dafny J. Irizarry, chairperson of the SCCC Board of Trustees.

Irizarry also presented an award from the Board of Trustees to the speech and debate team at the board's monthly meeting on Feb. 20.

"We are exceptionally proud of our students, staff and this notable achievement," she said.

Professor and faculty advisor Christopher Holfester was also commended for his dedication. He has worked with SCCC debate teams for the past 15 years.

The SCCC Grant Campus Speech and Debate Team has earned a trip to the national championships nearly every year since 1999.

The team has received three individual national championships and two New York State team championships.

SCCC's team is the only team from a community college to ever win the New York State Team Championship in the 59-year history of the event. They have also won in consecutive years: 2002 and 2003.

Team alumni include seven practicing attorneys and four professors, two of whom teach at SCCC.

Pictured above, from left, are Holfester; Irizarry; team members Amanda Yodice, Nicholas Krauss, Faseeha Naeem, Nick Alleyne and Amanda Koscik; SCCC President Shaun L. McKay; and team members Sarah Urf, Jaqueline Pusey and Felipe A. Espitia Cetina.