

TCTC students earn top honors at national competition

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CHAMPION — Taking their knowledge of computers, multimedia and business, three Trumbull Career and Technical Center students earned top honors at the national, state and regional competitions of the Business Professionals of America.

Taking high honors at the Business Professionals of America competition May 6 to 11 in Reno, Nev., were Steve Bada of McDonald, who is studying interactive multimedia; Bob Hausen of Southington, computer business management; and Steve Ruman of Niles, information technology.

Bada took first out of about 70 competitors in visual media production; Ruman placed fifth out of 115 in fundamentals of Web page design; and Hausen placed sixth out of 115 in payroll accounting. The three received plaques, trophies and medals, and Bada received a \$1,000 scholarship for his win.

Mary St. Clair, tech prep supervisor, and Rhonda Orr, information technology instructor and Business Professionals of America adviser, said that the three students first competed at the regional level against other BPA students from the Mahoning and Columbiana counties career centers in January.

Depending on the competition, either the top or top two students advanced to the state level held in Columbus in March. Students in the top five in the state moved to nationals.

After graduation, Hausen will attend Kent State University for accounting, Bada will attend Youngstown State University for education and then the Arts of Institute of Ohio for video production and Ruman Kent State University Trumbull Campus for computers.

Bada said the competitions helped him to gain confidence as a speaker and with his presentation skills. He said it will help him get into an art school and into the video production field.

"It felt pretty good when they said I was first. I was very tired because it was such a busy week," he said. Competition ran from Tuesday to Saturday.

Hausen said it was an honor to be able to make it to the national level.

Ruman said the competition was a way to see and meet people from other places who are in similar fields.

Orr said judges were individuals in business administration and industry.

St. Clair said the students all were very dedicated and committed coming in over Christmas break to prepare.

Larry Crawford, TCTC academic supervisor, said people who have the right answers are the ones who get promoted in life.

"People who work the hardest and come up with the right answers are the ones who get the farthest. These three worked hard and had the right answers which makes a strong statement about their work ethics," he said.