



Tuesday, March 18, 2003

SIFE team a finalist in national competitions

Oakland University's Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) team, sponsored in large part by SBC, recently was named a finalist in two national competitions. The first competition focused on business ethics and the second on financial independence.

Out of 804 schools eligible to enter the competitions, OU's SIFE team was one of only five to be named a finalist in both categories, said Mark Simon, associate professor of management and faculty adviser for SIFE. The winners will be announced at the SIFE national competition in Kansas City in May.

Founded in 1975 and active on more than 1,200 college and university campuses in 31 countries, SIFE is a nonprofit organization that works in partnership with businesses and higher education to provide college students with the opportunity to make a difference and to develop leadership, teamwork and communication skills through learning, practicing and teaching principles of free enterprise.

Each year, SIFE teams worldwide develop and implement thousands of educational outreach projects in their communities that are designed to teach others the principles of the free enterprise system. At annual regional, national and international competitions, entrepreneurs award university teams prizes based on the effectiveness of their projects.

OU's SIFE focuses on inspiring middle school and high school students from groups who are underrepresented in higher education. The team works closely with other OU academic and social enrichment initiatives, such as Project Upward Bound, Gear-Up and the King-Chavez-Parks programs that target similar students.

On Monday, March 31, the OU team will head to Cleveland to present the outreach programs they have implemented over the past year in a regional competition. Winners of that competition then will head to Kansas City in May for the SIFE national competition.

For more information on OU's SIFE team, contact Mark Simon or Nancy B. Hastings at (248) 370-2660 or entrep@oakland.edu.

SUMMARY

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