



Thursday, May 15, 2003

OU SIFE team earns national recognition

By **Jeff Samoray**, *OU Web Writer*

Oakland University's **Students in Free Enterprise** (SIFE) team finished in the top 16 in the country at the **SIFE USA National Exposition** May 11-13 in Kansas City, Mo.

The team, sponsored in large part by SBC, also was named a finalist in three separate exposition competitions: Business Ethics and Social Responsibility, Financial Independence, and Entrepreneurship. Just two other teams were finalists in more special competitions than OU. Teams from 146 universities and colleges from around the nation competed in the exposition.

"We were the smallest team at nationals and went further than any second-year team at the competition," said Nancy Hastings, a master's student in training and development and OU SIFE chief operating officer. "Our strong finish shows that the strength of our projects and program is exceptional."

A series of judges evaluated teams based on how creative, innovative and effective they were in teaching students such concepts as how free markets work in a global economy and how to practice business in an ethical and socially responsible manner that supports the principles of a market economy. Judges also evaluated the effectiveness of each team at tasks such as measuring the results of their projects and how well they communicated their programs through their written reports and verbal presentations.

The Oakland team earned \$3,000 in prize money in addition to the \$1,500 it won for finishing first at the SIFE regional competition in Cleveland. All of the prize money will support continuing programs in the community aimed at teaching business principles to underprivileged youth.

Founded in 1975, SIFE is a non-profit organization comprised of highly dedicated student teams on more than 1,400 university campuses in 33 countries. SIFE offers these students the opportunity to develop leadership, teamwork and communication skills through learning, practicing and teaching the principles of free enterprise, thereby improving the standard of living for millions in the process.

Guided by distinguished faculty advisers and supported by businesses around the globe, SIFE teams teach important concepts through educational outreach projects, including market economics, entrepreneurship, personal and financial success, and business ethics to better themselves, their communities and their countries. Each year, SIFE competitions are held worldwide, drawing together thousands of students and business leaders.

For more information, visit the **OU SIFE team** Web site or contact Nancy Hastings or Associate Professor of Management Mark Simon at (248) 370-2660 or entrep@oakland.edu.

SUMMARY

Oakland University's Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) team finished in the top 16 in the nation and was named a finalist in three separate competitions at the SIFE USA National Exposition May 11-13 in Kansas City, Mo.

Created by CareTech Administrator (webservices@caretechsolutions.com) on Thursday, May 15, 2003

Modified by CareTech Administrator (webservices@caretechsolutions.com) on Thursday, May 15, 2003

Article Start Date: Monday, January 12, 2004