

2008 Fed Challenge Team Finishes in Top 25 in New York

Following months of preparation and several practice sessions under the guidance of advisor Gerry McCloghry, the Trumbull High School Fed Challenge Team headed to New York Federal Reserve Bank headquarters in New York City in early April to face 117 other high school teams from the tri-state area for the first round of the 2008 Fed Challenge competition. The THS team set a school record for the highest score with a total of 39 out of a possible 40 points in the quarter-final round.

Moving on to the semi-finals in New York a couple of weeks later, THS scored 35 of 40, but were edged out by perennial finalists, Montclair and Marlboro high schools, both from New Jersey. In the final count, Trumbull finished in the top 25 of the 118 participating teams.

Eventual champion Marlboro moved on to represent the New York District (Federal Reserve Bank District 2) at the national competition in Washington, D.C.

Usually comprised entirely of seniors, the 2008 team was quite different in that it included four juniors. Senior Michael Heeks, who served as this year's team chairman, is bound for UConn to major in business and was recently admitted to its Honors Program. The team's other senior, Omar Elmaghrabi, will be attending NYU, also majoring in business. Lauren Dahlin, a junior, is graduating a year early and is headed to Bard College at Simon's Rock (Mass.).

Juniors Lisa Kasiewicz, Dan Connolly, and Ishani Dhaon will provide a wealth of experience and depth for the 2009 Fed Challenge Team.

Trumbull's Fed Challenge teams have been finalists or semi-finalists in the New York District every year since 2003 (inclusive). The teams' perennial successes are aided in large measure by continued guidance of Phil Lane, the chairman of Economics at Fairfield University, and financial support from Frank Metrusky, Trumbull Business/Education Initiative (BEI), and the Trumbull Academic Challenge for Excellence (ACE) Foundation.