

At the Connecticut DECA state competition in March, third place winner **Jennifer Salvey** and first place winner **Kevin Meeson** receive their trophies on stage for

the Principles of Finance event. Participants competed in a role play scenario which mimicked a real life business situation, paired with a written test.



Above. **Khushboo Dhingra**, left, **Steven Oliveira** and **Umang Gangwar** show off their awards after having swept the Principles of Business Administration and Management event at the state level DECA competition in Southington.

Left. Having reached the end of the Louisville Slugger Museum tour, **Erica Ozolins** jots a thank you note to the group's tour guide.

DECA

Markets excellence

"All I Do Is Win" by DJ Khaled blasted over the sound system as DECA finalists were called onto the stage to receive trophies at the Distributive Education Clubs of America state competition in March. The members of the Trumbull chapter, eight seniors and two juniors, waited anxiously for their standings to be announced. Finally, after a long eight-hour day at the Aqua Turf Conference Center, the results were broadcast and six of the students placed in the state,

qualifying them for the International Career Development Conference (ICDC) the following month. "It was such a thrill to qualify for nationals, especially so many of us in our first year!" exclaimed second place finalist Umang Gangwar. With the ICDC less than a month

away, plans to fly the students and adviser Todd Manuel to Louisville, Kentucky, for the April 24-27 nationals began immediately. When the conference date arrived, the students found themselves meeting hundreds of people from all 50 states, as well as Canada, Puerto Rico and Guam. Anxiety levels

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peaked as the individual competitive events drew closer. Two Trumbull members, Erica Ozolins and Kevin Meeson placed -Ozolins in the top twenty in the written event and Meeson in the top ten overall. Returning home, the teens wanted to hype up Trumbull's excitement about DECA, so they sponsored DECA Day in early June, inspiring underclassmen to join the national teen business and marketing organization.



Above. On DECA Day in June, **Nicole Cammarota** aims up a shot for the "Hooked on DECA" game in the Commons as Meeson gives her pointers on how to latch the ring onto the hook.

Left. At the International Career Development Conference trip to Kentucky in April, Salvey, left, Business Department chair **Debra Owen** and Dhingra tour the Louisville Slugger Museum and factory.