SDSU Horticulture Club Wins Competition

BROOKINGS, S.D. - The South Dakota State University Horticulture Club placed first in contests held at the 43rd Annual Mid-America Collegiate Horticultural Society Conference (MACHS) held at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa October 8 to 9, 2015.

Approximately 60 students attended the event representing seven, two- and four-year schools.

MACHS hosts multifacetted events which test students' overall knowledge of horticulture, their ability to identify woody and herbaceous outdoor and indoor plant samples, as well as students' ability to judge nursery stock, floriculture

crops, fruits, nuts and vegetables.

Nine SDSU Horticulture students participated in the contest. The winning SDSU official team included: Patrick Hanson, Lakeville, Minn.; Andrew Miller, Kansas City, Kan.; Tate Griebel, Sioux Falls, and Patrick Lowin, Blunt.

In addition to competing as an official team, individual recognition was also given to the following:

Woody Plant Judging: Patrick Lowin placed second; Tate Griebel and Andrew Miller tied for third place;

Plant Judging: Tate Griebel, placed first and Meagan Stueven, Hills, Minn., placed second.

Other SDSU students participating included: Hannah Hayes, Spearfish; Yu Shen, Shenyang, China; Casey Snyder, Sioux Falls and Amanda Williams, Aberdeen.

The SDSU Horticulture Club Advisor is David Graper, SDSU Extension Horticulture Specialist & South Dakota Master Gardener Program Interim Coordinator; who is assisted by Brett Owens, master's graduate student in Plant Science.

This is the second year SDSU has won the competition. North Dakota State placed second while the University of Wisconsin - River Falls placed third.

Other schools participating in the contests included; Iowa State University, University of Wisconsin - Platteville, and the University of Minnesota - Crookston.

"MACHS provides a great opportunity for students to interact with future colleagues as well as with industry and faculty from other universities," said Graper. "Our students get out of the classroom and get to see aspects of the Horticulture Industry they would not otherwise experience."

MACHS was sponsored by the Iowa State University Department of Horticulture, Davey Trees, Swift Greenhouses, Inc. and Bailey Nurseries, Inc.





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