



**MEDIA INFORMATION
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Career Center Students Win at FFA Regional Leadership Contests

JACKSON, Mich. – On February 12, 2014, four teams from the JACC Agriscience class Future Farmers of America (FFA) team competed against top district teams in the FFA Regional Leadership Contests held at Saline High School. In total, 17 of the Career Center's students placed or won an award at this year's competition.

Demonstration Team members **Kelly Elsass** (senior, East Jackson) and **Shelbie Coppernoll** (junior, Grass Lake) took home top prize with their presentation about preparing and showing pigs entitled "Show Pigs 101." In the Junior High Public Speaking competition, **Alyssa Bednarski** (8th grade, Grass Lake) took first place with her speech about composting, while **Sadie Finnegan** (8th grade, Hanover-Horton) took second place with her speech on antibiotic use in beef cattle production. In the Extemporaneous Public Speaking contest, **Nicole Wollet** (senior, East Jackson) brought home a third place win.

The JACC team also returned from the contests with 14 Proficiency Awards—the most in the Center's history, which included three state award winners. State winners in the Proficiency Awards include **Andrew Ropp** (senior, Concord) in Beef Production; **Kelly Elsass** (senior, East Jackson) in Agricultural Service; and **Alex Payne** (senior, Concord), who took home the state award in Grain Production and the gold in Diversified Crop Production.

"This is the most State Winners we have ever had in this contest," said Jason Gehrke, Agriscience teacher and FFA advisor, "I am very proud of all the students' performances and efforts in order to win these awards."

The first- and second-place teams will move on to compete at the State level competition and convention March 5 -7 at Michigan State University.

More about FFA

Future Farmers of America (FFA) is one of the world's largest student organizations. FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

More about the Career Center's Agriscience Course

The Career Center's Agriscience class allows students to specialize in the study of plants and animals through practical, hands-on application that is balanced both in and out of the classroom. Students receive the basic foundational skills associated with the science of agriculture, and can then enhance those skills by selecting a more specific study in either plant or animal sciences.

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Jackson Area Career Center FFA Regional Contest Winners

Student Name	Award and Level	Category / Topic
Grade level, District		
Alyssa Bednarski 8 th grade, Grass Lake	Junior High Public Speaking First	
Sadie Finnegan 8th grade, Hanover-Horton	Junior High Public Speaking Second	
Nicole Wollet Senior, East Jackson	Extemporaneous Public Speaking Third	
Shelbie Coppernoll Junior, Grass Lake	Demonstration Team First	
Kelly Elsass Senior, East Jackson	Proficiency Award State winner	Agricultural Service
	Demonstration Team First	
Andrew Ropp Senior, Concord	Proficiency Award State winner	Beef Production
Alex Payne Senior, Concord	Proficiency Award State winner Gold	Grain Production Diversified Crop Production
Elizabeth Reaume Senior, Western	Proficiency Award Silver	Diversified Livestock Production
Amanda Wood Senior, Napoleon	Proficiency Award Silver	Diversified Livestock Production
Ulise Hernandez Senior, Concord	Proficiency Award Silver	Equine Science
Destiny Ewald Junior, Wester	Proficiency Award Silver	Equine Science
Elizabeth Reaume Senior, Western	Proficiency Award Silver	Equine Science
Larry Robeson Senior, Michigan Center	Proficiency Award Bronze	Outdoor Recreation
Kathryn Clavier Junior, Grass Lake	Proficiency Award Bronze	Agricultural Education
Andrea Miles Junior, Hanover Horton	Proficiency Award Bronze	Beef Production
Christopher Presley MSU	Proficiency Award Bronze	Beef Production
Samantha Parshall Junior, Napoleon	Proficiency Award Bronze	Specialty Animal Production