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Accounting students win statewide competition

A team of four accounting students from the University of Southern Indiana School of Business won first place in the fifth annual Indiana CPA Society Case Study Competition in October 2004 in Indianapolis.

USI team members were Donovan Sexton, junior, Newburgh; Jamie Willis, senior, Petersburg; Scott Dennis, junior, Evansville and Harrison High School graduate; and Brad Hotz, senior, Jasper. Each member of the team received a \$1,000 award from the Indiana CPA Society (INCPAS).

Faculty advisor for the team is Jeanette Maier-Lytle, USI instructor in accounting, of Oakland City, Indiana.

Teams from nine Indiana colleges entered the competition in September by submitting written cases. The teams had 10 days to research the case and prepare a written report. Judges chose the top six teams as finalists, and those teams traveled to Indianapolis for the oral presentations.

Placing second was Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis – Kelley School of Business. Third place went to Manchester College. Other teams in the final round represented Butler University, Indiana University Bloomington, and University of Notre Dame.

The Indiana CPA Society began the case study competition in 2000 to give students the kind of practical experience they might use as a CPA in the business world. USI has competed in the competition for four years, placing among the final six in three of the four years.

This year's contest required the teams to develop a recommendation for an accounting firm's growth strategy, taking into account issues related to client niche and the effects of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act on firm quality control practices, firm culture, and client relationships as well as other regulatory and marketplace factors.

The awards were presented October 15 following the competition at the CPA Celebration at the Indiana Roof Ballroom in Indianapolis.