



Contact: Violetta De Rosa
Manager, Program and Events
Entrepreneurial Management Center
5250 Campanile Drive
San Diego, CA 92182-1915

SDSU Business Students Place Second in the Nation MBA Team Edges Out Harvard, Wharton, and Columbia Business Schools

SAN DIEGO, April 17, 2003 -- In a triumph for San Diego's oldest and largest business school, MBA students from San Diego State University competed against the country's top business schools to place second in a major competition.

The students beat an elite field of private schools to win a top spot at the Venture Capital Investment Competition, a major business school competition sponsored by the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill. Placing second only to UNC in a "blind" contest, SDSU's business students were up against the country's powerhouse business schools.

The competition positions students in the role of venture capitalists and assesses their acumen in reviewing business plans, conducting due diligence, and deciding on funding. Partners from major venture capital funds serve as judges.

"Being placed as one of the top teams in the nation reinforces the caliber of our students and our business programs at SDSU" stated Gail K. Naughton Ph.D., dean of the College of Business Administration. "We are proud of our ongoing commitment and ability to train the best and brightest business leaders."

The SDSU student competitors include Jenna Gifford, Trevor Page, John Renier, Helen Yapura, David Marchesani, and Ian Hamilton.

To represent the school at the national level is an honor that few students achieve," said Renier. "It felt great to walk into a competition, where San Diego State was clearly viewed as the underdog, and come away with second place in the entire country. It simply proves that hard work and preparation can accomplish anything."

Jim Morris, president of JBM Properties and an advisory board member of SDSU's Entrepreneurial Management Center, added that SDSU graduate business students are ranked among the top in the country for their ability to implement newly learned tools and skills and apply them to real world situations.

"Theoretical application is a critical aspect of the SDSU program and it's a factor in the school's teams placing so well in national competitions," Morris said. "Gail Naughton and everyone at the Graduate Business School should be congratulated for the continued success of this fine program."

ABOUT THE SDSU's COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

SDSU's College of Business Administration has more than 5,600 undergraduate students, making it one of the 10 largest programs in the country. The college also includes more than 700 graduate students and approximately 100 full-time faculty members. Its academic departments include accounting, finance, information and decision systems, management and marketing. It also has programs for entrepreneurship, community economic development, hospitality and tourism management, international business and an executive MBA. For more information, visit www.sdsu.edu/business.

ABOUT THE ENTREPRENEURIAL MANAGEMENT CENTER (EMC)

The EMC (www.sdsu.edu/emc) was created in 1982 to provide SDSU students, organizations and individuals with education focusing on the application of the underlying principles and perspectives of entrepreneurship. The EMC's objective is to help people improve their chances of achieving success by becoming immersed in all stages of the entrepreneurial process in the classroom and the marketplace.

San Diego State University is the oldest and largest higher education institution in the San Diego region. Founded in 1897, SDSU has grown to offer bachelor's degrees in 78 areas, master's degrees in 62 areas and doctorates in 14. SDSU's more than 33,000 students participate in academic curricula distinguished by direct contact with faculty and an increasing international emphasis that prepares them for a global future. For more information log on to www.sdsu.edu.

###