

MEMO

To: Mike Riggle
Fr: Karen Geddeis
Re: Students and Staff Who Excel
Date: May 10, 2011

At the meeting on May 16, 2011, we will honor GBN junior Charlie Serota who recently won first place at the national DECA competition, and GBN instructional technology director Ryan Bretag for the design/implementation of the IDEA learning space.

Charlie Serota – DECA Champion

GBN junior Charlie Serota earned first place in the National DECA competition in the Sports and Entertainment Marketing category. The competition took place as part of the International Career Development conference in Orlando earlier this month. Students took exams and participated in intensive role-playing business scenarios that were scored and judged.

After placing in the top ten on his marketing exam and first place in his role-plays, Serota advanced to the final round of the competition. It was during the closing ceremonies that he learned of his first place national victory.

Ryan Bretag - IDEA

Instructional Technology Coordinator Ryan Bretag is the mastermind behind the implementation of the new IDEA at GBN. He was invited to the Texas Computer Education Association's annual conference this winter to present this topic in a full-scale replica. Bretag was involved in every aspect of the design of this lab. He and the architects visited coffee bars, technology stores, and colleges to get a sense of the potential for this facility.

In the IDEA, students and staff sit side-by-side as they learn skills in media production. They become collaborators, rather than fit the traditional roles of teacher and student. They connect beyond the IDEA with other learners around the globe, harnessing the power of technology.