

NEWS

SIFE team wins awards

Okanagan College's "Students In Free Enterprise" team has been

named the 2010 HSBC SIFE Financial Education Challenge Region-

al Champion by national charitable organization Advancing Canadian

Entrepreneurship (ACE) and program supporters HSBC Bank Canada.

SIFE Okanagan managed to take home two regional champion titles and was also being named a regional champion for the SIFE Green Challenge. All Western based SIFE teams were judged by live panels of business professionals.

The regional champions were announced last Friday in Calgary at the 2010 ACE Western Canada Regional Exposition.

The SIFE team from Okanagan College stood out to the judges because of their dedication to their community including aspiring entrepreneurs, current business owners, high risk youth and Grade 5 students.

The team was able to connect with these audiences through the outreach projects they have implemented over the past year, at no cost to participants.

Highlights include:

- Bridge's Youth Mentorship provides financial guidance to high risk youth, teaching the basics of credit management and budgeting through an interactive group session and one-on-one mentoring.

- Student Solutions Business Consulting provides consulting services to aspiring and current entrepreneurs in the Kelowna area to help launch their venture or improve existing business practices.

- Growing up Greener is a nine week program that educates grade five students on the importance of living green. Program is slated to expand in 2011, from involvement of one school to four.

"Project management, developing partnerships, board meetings, logistics and job satisfaction are all concepts I have learned over the past three years thanks to my involvement with SIFE," explained SIFE Okanagan team co-president Deepak Garcha.

"I have had the opportunity to obtain hands on experience and apply my in-class knowledge to real world situations."

Teams have been provided the necessary tools and training from ACE to develop and implement their extensive projects to help others. SIFE Okanagan will now move on to the national level of competition, in both categories, taking place in Calgary on May 10 to 12.

"The SIFE Okanagan team's efforts are a great example of the financial education movement and environmental movement our students are leading across this country," said ACE president Amy Harder.