

John Jay H.S. takes first place in virtual enterprise competition



John Jay High School's Virtual Enterprise class won 1st place in the recent New York Metro-North Division Business Plan Competition.

-Courtesy photo

John Jay High School's Virtual Enterprise (VE) class won first place in the New York Metro - North Division Business Plan Competition.

The Business Plan competition offers the VE students a unique opportunity to develop and demonstrate career readiness competencies, garner real-world feedback from a diverse pool of judges, and evaluate their performance compared to peers. This year's firm, "Evodia," is an aromatherapy retailer within the Virtual Enterprise economy, specializing in the sale of scented soaps, lotions, and essential oils.

John Jay High School has established itself as a force in the VE NY Metro North Division, now having qualified for the national competition three out of the last four years. The competition requires a written formal business plan, a slide pres-

entation and visual aids, and many hours of practice in delivering a ten minute "shark tank" style presentation to a panel of judges and a live audience... complete with a question and answer session.

Virtual Enterprise is made up of more than 500 different firms and with this win, John Jay High School's Evodia distinguishes itself by now being one of 35 teams to compete for the national title at the Virtual Enterprise National Business Plan Competition at the Jacob Javits Center in New York City in April.

The following students were on the presentation team.

- Scott Klosen - CEO
- Damien Foster - COO
- Michael Wisker - VP of Marketing
- Gabi Pugliese - VP of Communications
- Garrett Peterson - VP of Finance.

RCK senior honored during annual MLK breakfast

Roy C. Ketcham High School senior Amanda Arvelo was honored January 20 at the annual Martin Luther King Jr Breakfast, sponsored by the Catharine Street Legacy Committee. The MLK Breakfast honors community leaders in partnership with the Roosevelt Institute, and provides scholarships to local youth who plan to pursue higher education. An MLK Awardee is a student that understands and embraces the philosophy of "giving back" and supporting others. They are well-rounded students that are actively involved in their school community.



Amanda Arvelo

-Courtesy photo

Amanda is active in both her school and community. She serves as captain of the volleyball team and is a member of the track team; she is also president of the Spanish Honor Society and a member of the National Honor Society, Tri-M Honor Society, and Math Honor Society. She plays viola in the string ensemble, and participates in peer tutoring. Outside of school, she is in a church youth group, plays club volleyball, and volunteers at an animal shelter over the summer. She even finds time to hold a job as a hostess at a restaurant.

"The Spanish Honor Society is particularly important to me, since I come from a Hispanic family. I've been speaking Spanish since a very young age, and I want to use my knowledge of the language to unite the Spanish community at my school with interesting fundraisers and events while also learning about other cultures."

In the future, Amanda plans to major in biology or neuroscience; she hopes to work in the medical field one day. She

will bring a unique perspective to the field: she has a condition called hydrocephalus which, in her case, prevents cerebral spinal fluid from draining down to her stomach properly.

"I have had five brain surgery procedures, three of which were in eighth grade. Through this experience, I saw all of the different occupations in a hospital, and it opened my eyes to the possibility of working in healthcare," said Amanda.

As part of a summer medical internship, she has shadowed a neurosurgeon in the office for pre-op and post-op appointments, and also went to medical conferences. "Being able to relate to a patient is very important, and I am able to do that since I was a patient myself," said Amanda.

Amanda hopes to participate in research or internships in college.



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