



News Release

from the PA Tourism & Lodging Association

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Pennsylvania Students Named Seventh Annual LMP Competition Champs

Four high school hospitality students from Monroe Career & Technical Institute (MCTI) in Bartonsville, Pennsylvania took home the national title in the seventh annual American Hotel & Lodging Educational Institute (EI) **National Lodging Management Program (LMP) Competition** held April 15-17, 2010. The three-day event at the Orlando Airport Marriott challenged students to the real-life work experiences in a hotel. The competition is organized by EI, via funding provided by the American Hotel & Lodging Educational Foundation (AH&LEF).

LMP is a national educational program for high school juniors and seniors. AHLA's Educational Institute, through funding provided by their Educational Foundation, organized the three-day event and competition. Topics covered in the program include lodging management, front office and housekeeping management, leadership skills, marketing and sales, and food and beverage service. Through internships arranged as part of their LMP class, students explore the variety of job opportunities open to them in the hotel industry. The Pennsylvania Tourism & Lodging Association (PTLA), the group responsible for overseeing the LMP program in the Commonwealth, sponsored and funded the local students' expenses.

In all, 13 teams competed, representing schools in Arkansas, Florida, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Washington, D.C., and Wyoming. The competition included three contests, Hotel Operations, The Hospitality Project and The Knowledge Bowl. The first two contests required the students to apply their knowledge in a challenged environment, requiring them to apply the skills they have learned both in the classroom and from their internships. The final contest included a question and answer Jeopardy style quiz.

MCTI Instructor, Patty LeCompte, has been responsible for teaching the students the classroom part of the course material; however, the student's internships provide the true hands-on experience that exposes them to application of the material they're learning. The MCTI students (Brandon Gargan, William Hagen, Angela Heffer, Jasmine Hurt) took 1st place in the first two contests in addition to taking home the national title as the overall winner of the LMP Competition, entitling them to scholarships from Johnson & Wales University, San Diego State University, the University of Houston, Widener University, Paul Smith's College, and the American Hotel & Lodging Educational Foundation.

The PA Tourism & Lodging Association is a private, non-profit, membership-based association that exists to advocate, support, promote and enhance the tourism and lodging industry within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. It provides lobbying, education and professional development opportunities, information and other resources as well as value-adding services to its members to ensure their—and the industry's—ongoing growth and success.

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