



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **DAVENPORT UNIVERSITY STUDENTS SHATTER ALL-TIME RECORDS AT NATIONAL BUSINESS COMPETITION**

**GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., May 13, 2015** – Davenport University students broke their own national record by earning 21 first-place awards at the Business Professionals of America’s (BPA) annual National Leadership Conference, held in Anaheim, Calif., May 6-10, 2015. Their previous best, earned in 2013, was 16 first-place finishes. At the competition, 43 DU students competed against more than 5,500 students from 24 different states. Overall, DU students earned 105 Top Ten finishes. Over the past seven years, Davenport students have earned first place awards in 84 national BPA events.

“We are extremely proud of our students’ achievements at the Business Professionals of America’s National Leadership Conference,” said Ron Draayer, Davenport University faculty member and BPA advisor. “Their participation in BPA is helping them to become better prepared for successful careers in business and technology fields. Their victories show that Davenport is doing a good job helping them learn the skills they need.”

Among highlights, Chris Lammers successfully defended two titles from last year in Network Administration Using Microsoft and Parliamentary Procedure Concepts. Daniel Hawkins also defended his title in Computer Programming Concepts. In addition to Lammers and Hawkins, Davenport students recording multiple first-place finishes included Ryan Lutes, James Brach, and Corwin Tobias. Also, Davenport University swept the C++ Programming competition, claiming the top three positions in the event.

A full list of Davenport winners can be found [here](#) and photos can be viewed at [Davenport's Flickr Account](#).

At the conference, Draayer was honored with the 2015 Hall of Fame Award for his contributions to BPA. He has been the BPA advisor for Davenport University since 1982, leading more than 600 students to the National Leadership Conferences. Draayer has served as a BPA National Board of Trustees member since 2009. Also, Davenport BPA Advisor Brian Kowalczyk received an award for his five years of service to BPA. In addition, Dr. Jodi Hicks participated in the conference as a judge of many competitive events in the Secondary Level.

**About Davenport University**

Founded in 1866, Davenport is a private, non-profit university serving nearly 9,000 students at campuses across Michigan and online. With tuition among the lowest of all private universities in the state, Davenport provides high academic quality, small class sizes, conveniently located campuses, faculty with real-world experience and more than 50 dynamic undergraduate and graduate programs addressing in-demand careers in business, technology, health professions and urban education.

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