

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**For Immediate Release**  
**February 23, 2015**

## **St. Peter Earn State Champion Honors**

Minnesota high school teams competed in the Academic Decathlon® State Competition at Oak Ridge Hotel & Conference Center in Chaska on Feb. 22-23.

State championship honors went to St. Peter Blue with a score of 34,895.4. They will represent Minnesota at the United States Academic Decathlon National Competition in Garden Grove, California April 16–18. Second place went to Lake Crystal Wellcome Memorial (LCWM) with a score of 29,467.4.

At the state event, students received scores for speech, interview and Super Quiz™ Relay. The essay test and other objective tests were completed online earlier in February.

The event concluded with an awards luncheon, featuring guest speakers from Xcel Energy Marcus Hendrickson, account manager, and Trisha A. Rosenfeld, community relations and economic development manager. Six students performed in a judge-selected Speech Showcase. This year's Speech Showcase presenters were Danny Reinan from Avalon School; Maddie Graham, Leah Jones and Brady Swanson from LCWM; and Grace Kvidera and Tanner Peterson from St. Peter. Awards were presented for individual and team accomplishments and for the Super Quiz™ Relay team champion.

Participating high schools included Avalon School, Lake Crystal Wellcome Memorial Secondary School, St. Peter High School and Worthington Senior High School. Teams not selected to attend the national competition have the opportunity to participate in the online national competition. Students whose teams did not advance to the national competition also have the opportunity to compete at nationals as individuals.

Academic Decathlon®, the premiere national scholastic competition for high school students, was created to provide opportunities for students to experience the challenges of rigorous team and individual academic competition. Each student competes in 10 events: Economics, Essay, Art, Interview, Literature, Math, Music, Science, Social Science and Speech. Students also compete in Super Quiz™ Relay, an oral quiz-show event that includes questions from six topic areas.

A unique aspect of Academic Decathlon® is that it is designed to include students from all academic ability and achievement levels. Each nine-member team consists of three "A" (Honors division), three "B" (Scholastic division), and three "C or below" (Varsity division) students. Each team member competes in all of the 10 events against other students in their individual divisions, and team scores are calculated using the top two individual scores from each division.

Gold, silver, and bronze medals are awarded for individual events and overall scores. The broad base of awards allows for major recognition of academic accomplishment. For a complete list of individual and team winners, please visit the South Central Service Cooperative website [www.mnscsc.org](http://www.mnscsc.org) and click on "Minnesota Academic Decathlon®" under the Programs & Services/Student Academic Enrichment tab.

A new theme of study is established every year with topics that are relevant, current and challenging. This year's theme was New Alternatives in Energy: Ingenuity and Innovation.

Interested in learning more about how to start an Academic Decathlon® team in your school? Please contact Joyce Swenson (507) 389-2461.

### **Media contact information:**

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