San Diego, CA (April 24, 2012)… The San Diego City College Students In Free Enterprise (SIFE) team was named the 2012 SIFE Western Regional Champions in Hollywood, CA on Thursday, April 5. As Regional Champs, the SDCC-SIFE team will travel to Kansas City, MO May 20-25 to compete in the SIFE National competition.

Competing in regional championships for 19 years, the City College SIFE Team has won 18 consecutive championships.

Carrying out the SIFE mission to “serve the community through outreach programs”, City’s dedicated 68 member SIFE team of business interns worked on 12 projects this academic year, completing 5,000 hours of community service. With the SIFE motto, “A head for business. A heart for the world”, the team’s projects focus on social change, economics and entrepreneurship, and environmental change.

“Our goal is to improve the quality of life and standard of living for people in need”, said Dr. Leroy Brady, City College’s SIFE Director and Faculty Co-Advisor.

SIFE Alumni and grant writer, Alexis Price, volunteered her professional time to write 5 grants for the team this year. “We are grateful to Alexis for her skilled work. The grant money awarded to the team was the seed money we needed to implement new projects and grow existing ones”, said Nancy Fredericks, SIFE Faculty Co-Advisor.

The team’s projects included teaching financial literacy to Generation Y high school and college students, collecting 13,000 pounds of food to stock two food pantries, working with 18 entrepreneurs to help them start and grow their businesses, and operating the student-run copy center called the Business Resource Center. The team is passionate about its Don’t Be A Bully project, where the SIFE interns increase awareness, teach prevention and educate elementary aged children. The Don’t be a Bully program provided hundreds of 5th and 6th graders the tools for resolving conflict and abuse situations.

On December 3, 2011, the City College SIFE team hosted the First Annual Don’t Be a Bully Conference at City College with over 240 parents, community and education leaders attending. The children participated in age appropriate workshops and created anti-bullying posters, while the adults increased their bully awareness and learned ways to prevent it. Today, the children’s poster art work is a traveling exhibit in San Diego, currently on exhibition at the Hervey Point.
Loma Library and moving to the San Diego Central Library in May. The team’s newest project is working with veterans on job readiness skills, taught by veterans on the SIFE team.

Sixteen San Diego City College students participated in the Regional event, including presenters Antoine Bennett, Elizabeth Cruz, Victor Mendoza, Courtney Dallin, Jennifer Linnell; Support Team Members Pierre Alexander, Juan Clark, Melissa Rautenberg, Katrina McGown, Alejandro Robles-Medina and Miguel Valdez; Multimedia and Annual Report team members Dave Wilwayco, Gilbert Magellan, Saroth Seang, King Arthur and alumnae Alexis Price and Yesica Vazquez; Administrative Assistant Marie Disnew; Adjunct Professor and Co-Advisor Nancy Fredericks and SIFE Director, Co-Advisor, and SIFE Sam Walton Fellow of the Year for 2010, Dr. Leroy Brady.

As the students prepare for the Nationals in May, SIFE is sponsoring several fundraisers on and off campus to raise money for travel expenses. Visit the City College SIFE Business Resource Center in T-311A and watch for invitations to team demonstrations and fundraisers on and off campus. The team is interested in delivering their 30 minute presentation to large area groups to practice for Nationals, and to “pass the hat” for donations. Interested clubs, groups, or organizations should contact faculty member Nancy Fredericks at nfrederi@sdccd.edu for team availability between now and May 16. Donations to the team are needed and checks can be made out to: SIFE - San Diego City College Foundation and sent to San Diego City College, 1313 Park Boulevard, SIFE - Room T311C, San Diego, CA 92101.

About San Diego City College
Founded in 1914, San Diego City College serves as the educational cornerstone of downtown San Diego. With more than 18,000 students, City College offers 200+Associate Degrees and Certificates and 1,500 day, evening and weekend classes, including programs in business, computer technology, and communications. Home to KSDS Jazz 88.3 and the award-winning Knights, City College is part of the San Diego Community College District, comprised of City College, Mesa College, Miramar College, and Continuing Education. For more information, visit: www.sdcity.edu

For more information about San Diego City College’s SIFE team please visit www.sdsife.com