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Office of the Associate to the Superintendent

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### **Forget the Olympics - CDO students Win Medals of their own!**

**Tucson, AZ** - Former and current Early Childhood Education and Culinary Arts students at Canyon del Oro High School recently spent a week at the FCCLA (Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America) National Leadership Meeting in Orlando, Florida. Under the leadership of coaches Jennifer Atteberry-Pierpont (Early Childhood teacher) and Patti Schmalzel (Culinary Arts teacher), the four young women spent the week attending leadership conferences, competing at the national level, as well as playing judge for their peer's competitions.

Kelcy Bronson, current CDO senior, and Courtney Vorholzer, who graduated from CDO in May, competed in the Focus on Children Event where they created various lesson plans around the topic of hygiene. Together they earned gold medals by scoring a 98.6 out of a possible 100 points. Alison Maxwell, also a senior at CDO, competed in the Culinary Arts competition where she received a bronze medal for her three interpretations of a surprise recipe.

Desiree Romo-Daniel, who graduated from CDO in May, competed in the Early Childhood Event where she created a 32 page portfolio showcasing her teaching efforts in working with children this past school year. Desiree earned a gold medal with a score of 93 out of a possible 100 points.

“We (CDO) are very proud of the competitive level of our FCCLA students. To finish in the top three places in national competition shows that our programs do an excellent job of preparing students in the competencies. Mrs. Schmalzel and Mrs. Atteberry-Pierpont have built model programs”, said Dr. Michael Gemma, Principal, CDO High School.

According to the FCCLA, “there are more than 220,000 members and nearly 7,000 chapters from all over the nation. The organization has involved more than ten million youth since its founding in 1945. They believe that participation in national programs and chapter activities helps members become strong leaders in their families, careers, and communities.”

The Early Childhood program has been offered at CDO for the past 6 years, giving students a chance to experience child care, first hand, via providing a full service preschool. Culinary Arts has been offered at CDO for over twenty years and at Ironwood Ridge High School since its conception. CDO is one of three high schools in the Amphitheater School District which covers approximately 110 square miles and provides a high-quality education to over 16,000 students in Northwest Tucson and Oro Valley.

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