

For Immediate Release:

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**THE COSMETOLOGY ACADEMY AT DEC ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF THE
2ND ANNUAL DARE TO EXPRESS HAIRCUTTING AND NAIL ART COMPETITIONS**

MONESSEN, PA, MARCH 26, 2012 – The Cosmetology Academy at Douglas Education Center (DEC) held its 2nd annual Dare To Express Haircutting and Nail Art Competitions on Wednesday, March 21 at the Monessen-based schools’ Van Keulen Complex. Both competitions were open to all students of Career and Technology Center schools and high schools. No licensed professional cosmetologists were eligible to enter.

Fifteen teams, composed of 30 students from around the region, participated in the Dare To Express Nail Art Competition. The Dare To Express Haircutting Competition was comprised of eighteen competitors. Seven schools participated in both competition categories including Admiral Peary Vocational Technical School, Butler County Area Vocational-Technical School, Western Area Career & Technology Center, Connellsville Area Career & Technical Center, Mon Valley Career & Technology Center, Steel Center Area Vocational Technical School, and Fayette County Career & Technical Institute.

Judges for the competitions were all industry professionals. “This event has grown tremendously, and we couldn’t be more excited,” said Karen Nelson, Director of Cosmetology at The Cosmetology Academy. “Our commitment to the region is two-fold. We want to inspire the talent and motivation necessary to succeed in the cosmetology industry, as well as provide an environment that works as a confidence booster for students.”

Both competitions were judged on level of difficulty, originality, use of color, and final presentation, as well as specific requirements for each. The 2012 Dare To Express Haircutting and Nail Art Competition winners were as follows:

Dare To Express Nail Art Competition: 1st Michiko Karaffa and Heather Nutter (Model) of Connellsville Area Career & Technical Center; 2nd Julianne Gray and Victoria Blackburn (Model) of Steel Center Area Vocational Technical School; 3rd Samantha Heiler and Jordan Logan (Model) of Connellsville Area Career and Technical Center.

Dare To Express Haircutting Competition: 1st Jacki Pritts of Connellsville Area Career & Technical Center, 2nd Chelsea Pilarski of Steel Center Area Vocational Technical School, 3rd Aaron C. Knight of McKeesport Area High School.

Winners of both competitions were announced at the end of the afternoon and received prizes including: trophy for first place, medal for second place and medal for third place in each category.

“Douglas Education Center congratulates all student participants, instructors, and others involved in the Dare To Express competitions,” commented Jeffrey D. Imbrescia, CEO and President of DEC. “The competitors dedication is reflected in the excellent caliber of their work.”

For more information about The Cosmetology Academy at Douglas Education Center, please visit www.dec.edu.

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ABOUT DOUGLAS EDUCATION CENTER

Established in 1904, Douglas Education Center (DEC) is a premiere career institution located in Monessen, PA. DEC creates an educational atmosphere that not only fosters the highest standards of excellence in all students, but also helps these students develop an awareness of social responsibility and ethical behavior. DEC offers programs in special make-up effects, digital film, illustration, fantasy art, graphic design and web, cosmetology, medical and business.

THE COSMETOLOGY ACADEMY

The Cosmetology Academy at Douglas Education Center utilizes the #1 provider for cosmetology learning solutions, Milady. Students train in an upscale salon environment and also benefit from an in-house clinic. The clinic is open to students, staff, and the public, and allows the students to put their education to practical use. Cosmetology programs include: Cosmetology, Cosmetology Teacher / Salon Manager, Esthetics, and Esthetician and Nail Technologist.