

Kim Stefansson  
Escambia County School District  
Public Relations Coordinator  
[kstefansson@escambia.k12.fl.us](mailto:kstefansson@escambia.k12.fl.us)  
850 469-6219 (Office)  
850-393-0539 (Cell)

NEWS RELEASE  
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## **2016 ECSD Academic Team Competition Results**

Pensacola, FL: Last week, the Escambia County All-Star Academic Team fought their way into the Finals of the 31<sup>st</sup> Commissioner's Academic Challenge (CAC) in Orlando, FL. This year marks ECSD's return to the final round for the first time since 2013.

The going was not easy for Escambia County. Thursday morning Escambia fell to Volusia County in the preliminary round, but bounced back Friday morning in the consolation round with a dramatic come-from-behind performance to lock in a spot in the semi-finals. Saturday afternoon they fought through yet another nail biter to edge out Pinellas County in a run-off match, which earned them a spot in the finals, which took place later that day. Eventually Escambia fell to Manatee County in the finals, but represented the district well.

All but one of the team members will be returning next year, which bodes well for them in future tournaments.

The All-Star Academic Team is composed of the top six high-school "quiz bowl" players in our district. The students compete in rigorous academic competitions that focus on such subject areas as math, science, language arts, social studies, fine arts, and foreign language.

The Commissioner's Academic Challenge, held each April at Walt Disney World, is Florida's state championship tournament. The CAC features all-star teams from the various Florida counties who compete in three divisions based on K-12 full-time enrollment. Escambia County plays in Division 1, featuring the 20 largest school districts in Florida. Escambia's direct competitors include Duval, Pinellas, Brevard, and Broward counties, among others.

This year's All-Star Academic Team consisted of the following players: Bryce Coots (Senior – Tate), Meghan Kapur (Junior - PHS), Lia Davis (Junior - PHS), Samantha Brown (Junior - Tate), Abby Lyons (Sophomore- PHS), Lucas Liseth (Sophomore - PHS), Ally Shah (Sophomore - PHS), and Connor Zameska (Freshman - PHS)

The All-Star coach is Allan Robinson, who teaches at PHS and coaches the school's quiz bowl team.

Escambia County has earned six state titles, more than any other district in Division 1. Those 1st-place finishes came in 2000, 2002, 2003, 2006, 2010, and 2011. Escambia finished in 2nd place in 2007, 2012, and 2013.

For more information, please contact Language Arts Specialist Brian Spivey at 469-5409 or All-Star Academic Team coach Robinson at [Arobinson1@escambia.k12.fl.us](mailto:Arobinson1@escambia.k12.fl.us).

Media queries about any event listed on this release should be directed to Kim Stefansson, at 850-469-6219 or [kstefansson@escambia.k12.fl.us](mailto:kstefansson@escambia.k12.fl.us).

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