



Every spring the K-State at Salina Upward Bound Program sends one qualifying senior participant to Washington D.C. to experience a student leadership program and this year is no different. Eight UB seniors competed in an essay competition for a spot in the National Young Leaders Conference at the annual winter celebration event held on Saturday, December 5, 2009 in the College Center conference room.

Upward Bound will pay all expenses; including transportation to and from Washington D.C. and the 2009 National Young Leaders Conference is scheduled to take place from March 15-21, 2010. The National Young Leaders Conference (NYLC) gives high-achieving sophomores, juniors and seniors a greater understanding of their roles in democracy and the responsibilities of leadership. As these students meet with the men and women who shape laws and policies, they gain an inside perspective on key issues. Through interaction with Cabinet secretaries, members of Congress, diplomats, lobbyists, journalists and academicians, NYLC scholars receive direct experience and guidance that cannot be found in textbooks. Each session of the National Young Leaders Conference is designed to educate, inspire and motivate students by giving them the confidence and leadership skills that will take them into the future.

The judges for the essay competition were three of K-State at Salina's own; Dr. Les Hannah, Dr. Jennifer Molidor and Ms. Natalie Blair. This was a tough competition to judge because all of the UB students' essays were excellent but Damian Davenport from Ell-Saline High School emerged victoriously! Damian was chosen because of his essay's message and his presentation skills. Congratulations to Damian!

The essay competition was also held in conjunction with the UB winter celebration. The winter celebration is a time for all of the UB participants and their families to meet on the K-State at Salina campus and celebrate the previous year's accomplishments.

