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## Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### MCC IHSA Team Sends Rider to Nationals in California



**WILLIAMSTON** – Sarah Woody, a second-year Equine Technology student at Martin Community College (MCC), will be among the top IHSA member school teams and riders competing at the 2008 Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA) National Championship Show on May 8-11 in Burbank, CA. This honor comes as a result of earning Reserve Champion in the Open Reining class at the IHSA Zone 4 Horse Show held last month at Saint Andrews Presbyterian College in Laurinburg.

“I’ve competed at the National and World Appaloosa Horse Club competitions before as an individual but have not made it to this level of showing in IHSA,” said Woody. “This is exciting for me to have the opportunity to represent not only myself, but also my school at this level.”

With more than 300 member colleges in 45 states and Canada, the IHSA encompasses 29 regions in nine zones and represents over 6,500 riders in Hunt Seat Equitation, Western Horsemanship, and Reining. MCC’s western horse show team falls within Region 3 of Zone 4 (which covers Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina) and competes against teams from Appalachian State University, Saint Andrews Presbyterian College, North Carolina A & T State University, Virginia Tech, and Western Carolina University to name a few.

Although the smallest school in Region 3, MCC ended the year as Reserve Year End High Point Team after concluding their regular season and regional competitions on March 15 and 16 at Virginia Tech.

“I congratulate all of our team members on their hard work and dedication,” said Kimberly Kane, MCC’s Equine Technology instructor and IHSA team coach. “Sarah will represent the college well at Nationals.”

In addition to the team’s overall regional standings, Woody earned the IHSA Region 3 title as Reserve Year End High Point Rider. This is the second consecutive year she has earned this standing. Last year, Woody made it to Zone (also considered the Semi-Final Championship) competitions, held in Tennessee, and placed 9<sup>th</sup> in individual Open Horsemanship but just missed qualifying for the Nationals.

Having ridden horses and competed in shows all her life, Woody knew she wanted a career in the horse industry but was unsure of which direction to take. She found out about MCC’s Equine Technology program while attending a two-day 4-H Horsemanship School in Raleigh in 2002.

A Wilmington native and 2005 graduate of John T. Hoggard High School, Woody will complete her Associate’s in Equine Technology from MCC in May and plans to return home to pursue a Bachelor’s degree in business from UNC-Wilmington. She intends to eventually train horses for herself while competing at horse shows statewide and across the nation.

For more information on MCC’s IHSA team, please contact Kimberly Kane at [kkane@martincc.edu](mailto:kkane@martincc.edu) or 252-792-1521 Ext. 317. To learn more about the college’s Equine Technology program, visit their website at [www.mccequine.com](http://www.mccequine.com) or contact Tami Thurston, program director, at [tthurston@martincc.edu](mailto:tthurston@martincc.edu) or 252-792-1521 Ext. 318.

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