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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MCC IHSA Team's Season Ends with Two to Zone Competition

WILLIAMSTON, NC – Martin Community College (MCC)'s Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA) western horse show team successfully ends 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.

In addition to the team's overall regional standings, MCC sophomore Sarah Woody earned the IHSA Region 3 title as Reserve Year End High Point Rider. She, along with MCC freshman Justin Eddins, will move on to compete at the IHSA Zone 4 Competition this weekend, March 29-30, at Saint Andrews Presbyterian College in Laurinburg, North Carolina.

The college's team placed third in the High Point Standings at its last regular season competition on Saturday, March 15 at Virginia Tech. The individual results are as follows:

Sarah Woody - Class 16 Reining - 2nd Place
Sarah Woody - Class 15 Open Horsemanship - 4th Place
Jessica Bunch - Class 15 Open Horsemanship - 5th Place
Jessica Metz - Class 13 Novice Horsemanship - 1st Place
Jessica Coggins - Class 12B Intermediate II Horsemanship - 2nd Place
Justin Eddins - Class 12A Intermediate I Horsemanship - 2nd Place
Jake Deese - Class 11 Walk Trot Beginner Horsemanship - 1st Place

MCC sophomores Jessica Bunch and Sarah Woody, along with freshman Justin Eddins, qualified for the regional competition at a previous show held in February. However, after Saturday's show MCC freshmen Jessica Coggins and Jessica Metz both earned enough points to also qualify for the IHSA regionals, subsequently held at Virginia Tech the following day, Sunday, March 16.

The regional competition standings for MCC's team are as follows:

Sarah Woody - Class 16 Reining - 2nd Place
Sarah Woody - Class 15 Open Horsemanship - 2nd Place
Jessica Bunch - Class 14 Advanced Horsemanship - 3rd Place
Jessica Metz - Class 13 Novice Horsemanship - 5th Place

Jessica Coggins - Class 12 Intermediate Horsemanship - 7th Place
Justin Eddins - Class 11 Walk Trot Beginner Horsemanship - 1st Place

As first and second place riders at the regional-level competition, Justin Eddins and Sarah Woody qualify to compete for the right to represent Zone 4 at the National Individual Championship horse show nationals in California. There, the American Quarter Horse Association (AQUA) Western Rider winner will also receive a Textan saddle and a scholarship.

“I congratulate all of our IHSA team members on their hard work and dedication,” said Kimberly Kane, MCC’s IHSA team coach.

Team members are sophomores Beth Bradley, Jessica Bunch, Ava Edwards, Morgan Thorley, Holly Wall, and Sarah Woody. Freshmen riders are Jessica Coggins, Ashlea Davis, Justin Eddins, Jessica Metz, and Erin Nelson.

With more than 300 member colleges in 45 states and Canada, the IHSA encompasses 29 regions in nine zones and represents over 6500 riders in Hunter Seat Equitation, Western Horsemanship, and Reining. Geographically located in Zone 4, which covers Maryland, Virginia, as well as North Carolina, MCC’s team competes in Region 3. Other colleges and universities also in Region 3 are Appalachian State University, St. Andrews Presbyterian College, North Carolina A & T State University, Virginia Tech, and Western Carolina University to name a few.

For more information on MCC’s IHSA team or the Equine Technology program, please contact Kimberly Kane, Equine Technology instructor and IHSA team coach, at kkane@martincc.edu, or 252-792-1521 Ext. 317.

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