



**Wharton County
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AN 'EXCELLENT' SHOW

WCJC Drama Department shines at community college play festival

WHARTON, TEXAS – Wharton County Junior College actors and actresses were recognized for their outstanding talents during a recent play festival.

Held earlier this spring at Lone Star College in Kingwood, the annual Texas Community College Speech and Theatre Association (TCCSTA) Play Festival featured productions from 12 community college drama departments. A panel of judges graded the plays as well as the individual performers.

WCJC's theatre art students earned an "Excellent" rating for their performance of *Dearly Departed*, a comedy they performed for the public during the spring semester. In addition, several cast and crew received top marks individually, including two "Superior" rankings – the highest award bestowed at the festival.

"Our students did really well and I couldn't be prouder of them," said WCJC Instructor of Drama Jami Hughes. "We faced some very stiff competition but walked away with some really great marks."

WCJC students receiving awards included:

- David Hiebert of Rosenberg – Superior (acting)
- Kristi Callies of Beasley – Superior (acting) and Excellent (makeup design)
- Mycah Brooker of Van Vleck – Excellent (acting)
- Stephanie Udayan of Sugar Land – Excellent (acting)
- Ellie Wright of Edna – Excellent (costume design)
- Shanna Schroeder of Edna – Excellent (costume design)

Hughes said the judging was particularly strict this year, with several schools going home empty handed. Some of the schools traveled from as far away as Dallas. She credited her students with having the dedication and talent necessary to garner the judges' praise.

"The kids were just perfect," she said.

Although the experience was invaluable for the students, it was also rather exhausting. Hughes noted that with so many schools competing – and only one stage available – the performances stretched on into the night. She said there were four productions each day of the festival.

“We saw more shows than some people see in their lifetime,” she said with a smile.

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