

Empower Yourself blog : By Opal Polynice

On Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, students from Brockton's Ashfield and North Middle School and Brockton High School attended an award ceremony at the Massachusetts' State House, in their honor, for their recent accomplishments in defeating national academic power and champions in finance and economics, East Greenwich High School, Rhode Island. The ceremony was hosted by State Representative Claire Cronin, and was attended by fellow State Representative Michelle Dubois, Gerry Cassidy, State Representatives from Springfield Carlos Gonzales, as well as State Senator Michael Brady

The students are part of the youth financial literacy program Empower Yourself, which operates throughout the Brockton Public School system from grade 6 to 12. The goal of the organization is to promote and educate inner city youth on financial literacy, economics, and financial planning in the hopes of improving people's future opportunity and prospects.

The student's recent victory in April was at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, where they narrowly defeated East Greenwich in a contest conducted and jointly hosted by the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, Empower Yourself and the Massachusetts Council on Economic Education. Their previous competition, at Bridgewater State University, was a Global Symposium; requiring students to examine global economic problems and develop competent solutions. The competition was attended and judged by representatives of Bridgewater State College, Eastern Bank, the Massachusetts Council on Economic Education, State Representative Carlos Gonzales, and Ron Burton Jr. From the Boston Red Sox and the Ron Burton Training Village. The result was a stunning sweep for Brockton's High School teams, which took 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> place at the global symposium and won the high school division at the Boston Fed

For the ceremony, every student was awarded a certificate which was personally signed and given by Representatives Cronin, Dubois, Cassidy, State Senator Brady and house speaker Deleo. The students, who also host a radio program in collaboration with Spark News, also managed to interview Senator Cronin on various economic issues, including state funding and the drug crisis. The interview can be found online here.

To learn more about Empower Yourself, how you can contribute or future events follow this link.