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THE ACADEMY AWARDS SCHOLARSHIP TO HIGH SCHOOL FASHION DESIGN CONTEST WINNER

Shannon Nichols creates a stunning prom dress to take the prize

Hoffman Estates, Ill., (April 29, 2008) – The International Academy of Design & Technology (IADT or Academy) announced today that graduating high school senior, Shannon Nichols, of Mill Creek, Washington, shown below working on her garment along with Monir Zandghoreishi, Fashion Design Program Chair at IADT-Seattle, has been named the winner of its national fashion design contest. Her dress will be featured in the IADT-Chicago IMAGINE fashion show to be held May 15 and she also will receive a \$6,000 scholarship to attend the Academy in Seattle.

High school seniors were invited to participate by completing an application and submitting an original concept to a local Academy campus. Chicago, IL, Detroit, MI, Nashville, TN, Orlando, FL, Seattle, WA and Tampa, FL all had local finalists who were chosen and awarded a \$1,000 scholarship and an entry into the national competition to win an additional \$5,000 scholarship. The local finalist's work



was submitted to an independent judging committee who then reviewed the sketches and accompanying fabric samples and inspiration statement. The clothing ranged from day wear that was functional to a dramatic evening gown inspired by a Florida sunset. These teens showed their unique personalities as they entitled their creations: "The Revamped Oldie" or "La Beaute" and "Sheer Autumnn."

“Shannon clearly met the requirements in all categories: her sketch is well-proportioned; she did an outstanding job rendering the fabric; her choice of fabric was very appropriate to the design and the inspiration statement reflects the look and feel of the garment,” said Kathleen Embry, Associate Director of Education at IADT-Chicago and member of the judging committee. “Her overall presentation represents a desire for fashion.”

Nichols is currently making the dress she designed to wear to her prom. Her stated purpose: to wear something that is completely all her own that will stand out because of the design and the fabric. It is a coral abstract design with beads and lace.

“Shannon is off to a great start,” said Sharice Giacomini, president of the Academy in Seattle. “Her work shows true talent, great promise and strong commitment. She has what it takes to succeed as one of our students in our fashion design program.”

The other five finalists were: Ashley Jermanus (Detroit); Lia Rajaela Richard (Tampa); Cara Elizabeth Martin (Chicago); Sarai Rodriguez (Orlando); and Lauren Brooke Haston (Nashville). All of which have showed that they have the talent, desire and passion to pursue a design career.

About IADT

The International Academy of Design & Technology provides educational programs that are designed to prepare students for professional opportunities and career success in select design and technology fields. The Academy has been an established institution for more than 25 years and has 10 campuses across the US. At the Academy, students are part of an energetic community that shares ideas, solves problems, and finds new ways to approach work today and in the future. While enrolled at the Academy, each student is given an opportunity to grow vocationally, intellectually and professionally.

The Academy offers a variety of Associate of Applied Science and Bachelor of Fine Arts Degrees in Fashion Design, Interior Design, Visual Communication, Graphic Design, Digital Media Production, Fashion Merchandising and Game Design & Development. Both credential levels are not available for all programs. The Academy also offers fully-online degrees in certain programs. The International Academy of Design & Technology is accredited by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools. The Academy is a member of the Career Education Corporation (NASDAQ:CECO) network of universities, colleges and schools.

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