RIVIER STUDENT WINS NATIONAL AWARD IN COLLEGIATE DECA LEADERSHIP COMPETITION

Jennifer J. Liskow '02G
(From: *Rivier Press Release*, November 29, 2010)

Senior business major **Kristina Brodeur** was part of a team that won first place in a competition at the National Collegiate DECA Leadership Academy held in New York City. Brodeur and five other college students from schools around the country worked together to plan a week-long conference to improve financial literacy for high school students and their parents.

"We got to meet once to exchange numbers and ideas and once on the day of the presentation for an hour to come up with a solution to the case study they gave us," Brodeur says. "We won first place in the international business and finance competetion. We worked really hard to organize the information everyone had." Members of the group recruited speakers and planned activities to help students and parents understand saving for college, mortgages, budgeting, and more.

Brodeur says her group focused on the idea that less debt equals less stress. She was able to apply information she gathered at the NH Business Educator's Association conference she had recently attended. She says she also developed a better understanding of group dynamics. "In business classes, we have group projects—professors are constantly telling us that group dynamics are important. My group at the conference didn't have that at first, then we realized we were all working towards a common goal: to persuade the judges that we had the best idea."

Members of the Rivier Business Student Association Kristen Schwamb, John Green, and Jesus Figueroa also attended the Leadership Academy, with BSA advisor and adjunct instructor Jim Dowding. Students heard from a variety of speakers and participated in workshops and seminars hosted by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and the United Nations. Students toured both facilities and asked high-profile business leaders questions regarding issues in finance and international business. ∎