For Immediate Release

Monessen, PA --The 1st annual Creative Arts Festival and Experience (CAFÉ) sponsored by Douglas Education Center (DEC) was held Friday, March 20 at the Monessen-based schools’ Van Keulen Complex.

DEC received over 100 entries in the categories of sculpture, short film, illustration, and graphic design from high school students, as well as non-professionals 18 and over. A cosmetology competition was held the evening of the event for both career and technology students and those just interested in cosmetology. Admission to the event was free and over 250 people were in attendance. From city officials, to high school contestants, to community residents—everyone gathered for a night centered around the future of the arts.

All of the entries into the competition were displayed art-gallery style in DEC’s digital film building soundstage. There were demonstrations throughout the evening from various DEC instructors in a variety of areas.

Michael Anderson, graphic design instructor and the head of the portfolio and career development center at DEC held a graphic design seminar on how to create posters; Dorian Cleavenger, art instructor held an airbrush seminar in which he did an entire painting in 15 minutes; Bob Tinnell and his students did a digital film seminar in the sound mixing room at DEC; and Jery Gergely, special make-up effects instructor, worked alongside some of his students to do a make-up demo utilizing appliances.

The finale to the event was an “Extreme Hair Fashion Show” put on by current students and staff of the Cosmetology Academy at Douglas Education Center. Eighteen models, sporting outrageous, fantasy hair designs, strut down the runway to a medley of songs. The show was complete with a fog machine, strobe lights, and an MC.

Winners were announced at the end of the night and received prizes in the amounts of $500 for first place, $250 for second place, and $150 for third place in each category. High school entries comprised one category and those 18 and over were judged in a different category.

Judges for the competitions were all industry professionals, along with various DEC instructors. Winners in each category were as follows:

High School Illustration: 1st Maura Williams, 2nd Nina Lukaszewicz, 3rd Jacob E. Corrick
18 and over Illustration: 1st Kayla Ascencio, 2nd Pam Ramsey, 3rd Christian Knox
High School Sculpture: 1st Jacob E. Corrick, 2nd Courtney Duffy, 3rd Delanie Gilbert
18 and over Sculpture: 1st William Ormaza, 2nd Joe Daft, 3rd James F. Nemanich
High School Film: 1st Richard R. Nelson Jr., 2nd Greg Allison
18 and over Film: 1st Mike Berry, 2nd Phillip Rush, 3rd Kathy Smith
18 and over Graphic Design: 1st Kristina Ormaza, 2nd Franz Vorenkamp
Hair Design (Career and Tech): 1st Tiffany Matheny, 2nd Brooke E. McClain, 3rd Taylor Scabilloni
Hair Design (Non Career and Tech): 1st Crystal Newill, 2nd Alyssa Swartz

“This event really brought the community together, and we are really looking forward to next year,” said John Matechen, Director or Career Services at DEC. “The high school students’ work in all of the categories was amazing. If they are this good now, I can’t wait to see them in five more years.”

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor for next year’s event, please contact Tara Darazio at tdarazio@dec.edu or 724-684-3684 x103.

To see a gallery of photos from the event, please visit www.cafe2009.com. For more information on DEC, please visit www.dec.edu.