

Quiz Bowl provides CV students and sponsor with cross-curricular engagement

By Lisa Fischer

GREELEY -- Central Valley (CV) students proficient in junior high curriculum, popular culture, sports and current events attended Educational Service Unit (ESU) 10's Academic Quiz Bowl in Kearney.

On March 1st at the University of Nebraska at Kearney (UNK), CV Elementary Music Instructor Mark Hiebner completed his first season sponsoring Central Valley's Junior High (JH) Academic Quiz Bowl Team. Elaine Abrajan, Carson Corman, Kyle Oakley, Audrey Wood, Samantha Pinney, Cayton Butcher and Kyle Nekoliczak are the CV seventh and eighth graders who showcased their intellect in numerous areas inside the college's student union. Students began the day with a win against Elm Creek that was followed by close losses to Sargent and Gibbon. The event attracted students from nearly 40 other schools affiliated with ESU 10.

"It's a fun day where you learn a lot and get to spend time with friends," Butcher said.

An academic quiz bowl is a competition where teams of players use a buzzer system to score points for their team by answering questions on a wide range of academic topics. The questions, which are read to both teams by a moderator, involve tossup questions that both teams can buzz in on when they know the answer without having to wait until the end of the question. If players correctly answer the tossup question, they are provided with a bonus question and a chance for more points.

Hiebner has been in the district for five years and said sponsoring CV's JH Quiz Bowl Team brought back fond memories of his time competing in high school while attending Heartland Community Schools. He recalls the excitement of buzzing in for some odd or forgotten piece of knowledge or history. In fact, Nebraska History or trivia was one of his favorites.

"There were many interesting stories that helped me feel more connected to where I live," Hiebner said.

He enjoyed sponsoring the team because members took the competitions seriously, got better and became more confident. Hiebner noted how the Academic Quiz Bowl is a breath of fresh air for some of his interests in other content areas outside of the arts. He also enjoys viewing students performing in different environments and discovering a wide range of interests.

CV's JH Academic Quiz Bowl Team first competed at Central City on Feb. 15 and had their other team members, Dilynn Wood and Jackson McIntyre, in attendance. Central Valley's High School Academic Quiz Bowl Team will compete at ESU 10's High School Quiz Bowl at UNK on Friday, March, 17.