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NEWS RELEASE

2017 NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

Seton Catholic Places 5th in U.S. Online Academic Decathlon *Sentinel Decathletes Capture 12 Medals in e-Competition*



Left to right: Coach Todd Decker, Eric Chinchilla, Kayla Charles, Patrick Gorman, Noah Companik, Emma Garcia, Dillon Shipley, Silas Gadd Jr., Robert Buessing and Mikayla McNally. Not pictured: Michael Kittilson

CHANDLER, ARIZ., May 11, 2018 – Seton Catholic Prep’s Academic Decathlon team finished fifth among mid-sized schools in a recent national online competition sponsored by The United States Academic Decathlon®.

Seton Catholic, which won the 3A Division state title at the Arizona Academic Decathlon tournament earlier this spring, won 12

medals in the national online competition, including 11 individual medals. In the Scholastic Division, Dillon Shipley of Ahwatukee earned medals in five subject areas, plus a gold medal for overall score.

Seton has won many Academic Decathlon titles during its 64-year history, and on May 21, the Chandler City Council will recognize this year’s team for winning the state title and finishing in the top five in nationals.

The following Seton students medaled in the national online competition:

Honors Division (3.75 GPA and higher): Robert Buessing (Chandler), silver, Literature; bronze, Economics

Scholastic Division (3.00 to 3.74 GPA): Dillon Shipley, golds, Literature, Music, Math, Economics and eight-event top scorer, and silver, Science; Emma Garcia (Chandler), silver, Essay

Varsity Division (under 3.00 GPA): Eric Chinchilla (Ahwatukee), bronze, Economics; Patrick Gorman (Mesa), bronze, Mathematics; and Michael Kittilson (Chandler), bronze, Literature

Each state’s top overall team competed in the live finals last month in Frisco, Texas. With the exception of speech and interview events, teams that competed in the e-competition took the same tests as teams in the live tournament.



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The Sentinels are coached by Todd Decker, an Academic Decathlon teacher and coach for 29 years – the longest tenure of any Arizona coach.

About Seton Catholic Preparatory

A 2017 National Blue Ribbon School, Seton Catholic Preparatory is a diocesan, coeducational high school in Chandler, Arizona, open to students of all faiths and dedicated to academic excellence, leadership and loving service to others. For more than 60 years, Seton Catholic has served the East Valley of Phoenix as the only Catholic college preparatory high school, serving young men and women from parochial, private, charter, public and home schooling backgrounds. Seton Catholic graduates earn scholarships to and attend an array of selective colleges and universities, including state, private and Ivy League schools as well as service academies. Seton Catholic is accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, and the Western Catholic Education Association. www.setoncatholic.org.

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