

SCHOOL BRIEFS

District 99 students, staff perform at state music convention

The annual Illinois Music Education Conference was held last weekend in Peoria, and District 99 had a strong student presence at the event.

In addition to the 31 student musicians at Downers Grove North High and Downers Grove South High who were selected to participate in all-state ensembles, South High's Madrigal Singers and North High's Wind Ensemble were featured performers during the conference, which is attended by thousands of student musicians and educators from across the state.

The DGS Madrigal singers were selected after a competitive taped submission process. National Certified Board Teacher Laura Coster conducts the DGS Madrigal Singers.

"Performing at the prestigious IMEC is a tremendous honor for us," said Glenn Williams, chair of the fine arts department. "It's a credit to our student musicians that the South High Madrigal Singers have been selected to perform."

In addition to the ILMEA All-State Convention, the madrigal singers are scheduled to perform

at the American Choral Directors Association Regional Convention in Chicago later in February.

"We're going to be representing all of DGS, so we're putting in the extra effort so that we represent our school well," senior Megan Luckett said prior to the performance.

"Being part of the DGS Madrigal Singers and performing at All-State makes me feel like I'm part of something bigger," says

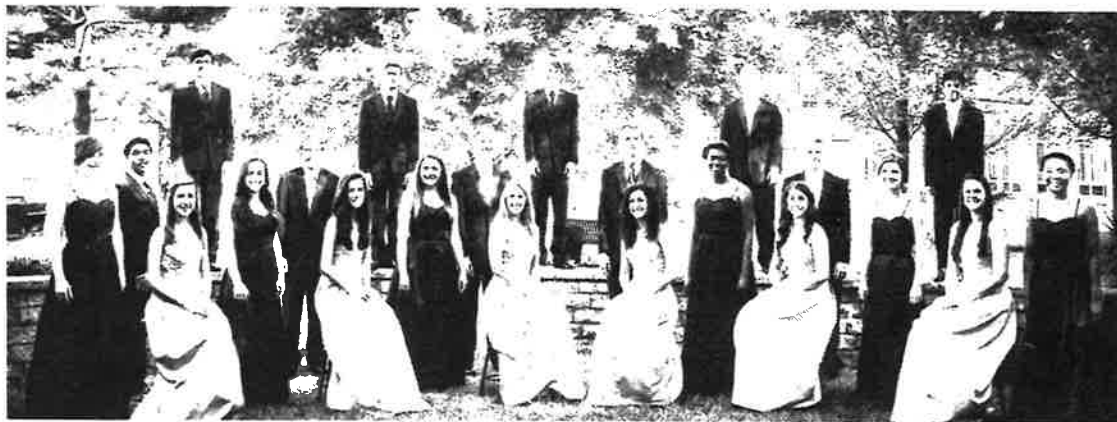
Another madrigal singer, Mariam Mackar, said the all-state performance is a great accomplishment.

"We have a good reputation of being a really profound type of group," Mackar added

Downers Grove North senior and composer Jeremy Pike, an All-State composition contest award winner, had his composition performed live by the DGN Wind Ensemble during the composer showcase at the 2016 IMEC.

In addition to student representation at the conference, District 99 faculty members also had leadership roles in the organization.

They were: Joy Belt-Roselieb, of South High, all-state honors choir



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organizational chair; Jennifer Mullen, District 1 Orchestra Division representative; Beth O'Riordan, of North High, District 1 Choral chairperson; Craig Roselieb, of South High, jazz division president; and Brayer Teague, of North High, ILMEA president-elect.

Also at the conference, South High music teacher Greg Hensel and English teacher Amy Stoops presented to other educators about the benefits of implementing literacy coaching techniques in music classes.

"Professional organizations run on the spirit of volunteerism, and

District 99 is among the leaders in the state of Illinois with staff involvement in their professional organization," Williams said.

The Downers Grove South Madrigal Singers performed at the Illinois Music Education Conference in Peoria.