CHARLESTON - The College of Charleston SIFE (Students In Free Enterprise) team returned to Charleston receiving national recognition after participating in the SIFE USA National Exposition held May 13 -15, 2008 in Chicago, Illinois. The event drew more than 140 competing teams – with more than 3,000 students presenting their work to more than 650 business executives serving as judges.

This is the first time that the College of Charleston’s SIFE team has advanced to this level of competition during its 4 years of existence. The team placed 2nd runner up in its league during the first round of competition ranking them in the top 4% of United States SIFE teams. “It was the realization of a dream to go to a national competition and see them compete. I was so proud of them. Our goal was to get there but to place really exceeded our expectation.” said John Clarkin, the faculty advisor who helped create this team.

SIFE is an international non-profit organization active on more than 1,400 university campuses in 47 countries. SIFE teams create economic opportunities in their communities by organizing outreach projects that focuses on market economics, entrepreneurship, personal financial success skills, and business ethics.

During this academic year, the College of Charleston’s SIFE team organized 11 projects in the Lowcountry, including the AIG Credit Workshop which educated C of C undergraduate students on the importance of credit and how it effects your life, the Lemonade Stand Project which taught first grade students from Buist Academy basic entrepreneurship skills through a lemonade stand model and the Youth Business Plan Competition which brought middle and high school students from around the state to the College of Charleston to showcase their business ideas. Overall, the team dedicated over 1,300 hours to educational outreach projects here in the Lowcountry.

For more information about the College of Charleston SIFE team, please contact Elease Slaughter at slaughtere@cofc.edu, 843-953-6650.