



On Dec. 15, Perkins County students completed their requirements of the Rural Career Development Class.

An award of \$25,000 was received from Federal Home Loan Bank-Topeka for the continuation of the Rural Career Development Class.

Receiving their certificate of completion were Jeremy Hagan, senior, Scott Mosel, senior, Seth Burge, junior and Gabrielle Patrick, junior.

Students received college credit for the course that will transfer to many colleges within the state.

The course was offered as a result of the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture's successful grant application for funds through USDA Rural Development.

Partners in the project were also Perkins County Schools and Southwest Nebraska Community Betterment Corporation. The students researched the business and entrepreneurial opportunities Perkins County has to offer upon their return from college.

Upon determining their areas of interest the students were matched up with local businesses to help mentor them.

Mentors that were selected by the students were Derek Wilson, owner of Wilson Feedyard Inc.; LaVern Poppe, owner of Poppe's Tax Service; Doug Anderson and Debbie Kuenning, Extension Educators for Keith-Arthur-Perkins counties; Mrs. Cindy Regier and Ms. Brooke Richardson, teachers at Perkins County schools.

Relationships were formed with the mentors and will continue, teaching the students intricacies and best practices of their profession. They were also required to give a presentation of their experiences throughout the semester and their career plans.

The Rural Career Development Class will be offered again the spring semester 2011. For more information please contact Ann M. Burge at 308-352-4338.