AIS Places at National Competition

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Four members from the Association for Information Systems (AIS) student chapter recently competed against 16 collegiate teams during the AIS Student Chapter Leadership Conference and Competition in Bloomington, Indiana. Allan Follett, Dallin Lewis, Abhishek Shukla, and Caleb Wilkinson began preparing for the competition last fall. The team had to review preparatory material, attend a four-hour training session on the night before the conference, and then participate in the nine-hour competition itself. The actual competition consisted of eight, one-hour sessions, interspersed with short breaks.

The atmosphere in the “war room” where the teams actually worked on their solutions was extremely tense. The air was charged with adrenaline as the teams rushed to analyze large volumes of data in a short amount of time, seeking insights for their strategic choices for each succeeding round. During the event the Huntsman team held a lead until round seven. Honing in their price point, the team was able to overcome their deficit and achieved second place.

This competition is “a unique chance to build momentum for students’ academic and professionals careers”, noted Dr. David Olsen, department head of the Management & Information Systems Department. This is the fourth year in a row that the Huntsman student team has placed at nationals.