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School's teams are simply the best

LEIGHTON KEITH - Taranaki Daily News Last updated 05:00 05/11/2010

New Plymouth Girls' High School is producing business leaders of the future.

Two school teams, Aotearoa Audio and Hianga Cards, scooped three of the top 16 excellence awards at the Young Enterprise Scheme function in Wellington and their teacher, Kim Jennings, walked away with the Sir James Fletcher Award for her contribution to enterprise.

The girls, who returned to New Plymouth last night, credit Ms Jennings for their success.

"Behind every successful enterprise team at New Plymouth Girls' High School is Ms Jennings," Sharleen Walton said. "There's no way any of us would be here today without her support and encouragement."

Aotearoa Audio, who produced two CDs of short stories, won national excellence awards for best financial management and the overall award for business management.

Managing director Ms Walton, 18, said the team, which included Katie Sullivan, 18, Meg Bartle, 17, and Nikaela Boshier, 17, thought they were going to win a communication award, "but we got financial management, so we were pretty stoked".

Hianga Cards, comprising Lisa Fairclough, 17, Mikaela Waitere, 18, and Kristal Jenkins, 18, produced playing cards with a Kiwi twist.

The cards feature Maori designs rather than the traditional suit symbols and each also has fact about Maori culture or language to help people learn while they play. Their entry won the Te Puna Kokiri award for Maori business.

Lisa Fairclough said the team had aimed to win the award since the start of the year.

They put their success down to motivation, team work, commitment and passion.

Ms Jennings, who has been involved with YES since 2002, has been credited with taking the school from strength to strength over the past nine years.

She said enjoyed watching the girls grow and develop.

"It's a huge achievement to receive three national excellence awards. Both teams have produced outstanding products."

Aotearoa Audio also secured contracts with Whitcoulls, I-Tunes and Marbecks to stock their CDs and they will be holding a launch at Whitcoulls in New Plymouth on November 13.