Harlan County High School math and science students won five of the eight first place awards in the Walter Dick Math and Science Contest held recently on Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College's Cumberland Campus.

HCHS students also claimed three second place and three third place awards in the competition named in honor of longtime Harlan County educator Walter Dick.

Dick has been honored by the Kentucky Legislature for his tremendous career, teaching children at the high school and college level. He was inducted into the Education Hall of Fame in Frankfort. While he is now retired, he continues to assist in the contest and volunteers in the math tutor for the Adult Education Center.

Awards are given for first, second and third place in eight categories - algebra, anatomy and physiology, biology, calculus, chemistry, computer science, geometry/trigonometry, and physics.

Plans are to add a "quick recall" event which is similar to "Jeopardy."

The contest is sponsored by the College's Division of Natural Science and Math each year. All nearby high schools are invited to participate.

Organizers of the event said the event is designed to promote academic excellence.

The contest has been ongoing for about 48 years, after being started by the Southeast math teachers originally to promote math excellence.

Students winning awards were:

Algebra – Nick Cox, first, Harlan County; Cody Gregory, second, Letcher County; and Zach Joseph, third, Letcher County.

Anatomy – Sam Sergent, first, Letcher County; Chase Calton, second, Harlan County; and Amber Nolan, third, Harlan County.

Biology – Angus Stewart, first, Harlan County; Isaac Gover, second, Letcher County; and Samantha Mullins, third, Letcher County.

Calculus – Kasey Adams, first, Letcher County; Savannah Reynolds, second, Letcher County; and Kaitlyn Collier, Letcher County.

Chemistry – Kevin Collier, first, Letcher County; Andi Fields second, Letcher County; and Ashley Johnson, third, Letcher County.

Computer Science – Josh Howard, first, Harlan County; Caleb Justen, second, Harlan County; and Dylan Russell, third, Harlan County.

Geometry/Trigonometry: James (Adam) Clem, first, Harlan County; Heath Bennett, second, Harlan County; and Sara Clark, third, Harlan County.

Physics – Josh Madison, first, Harlan County; Mariah Mullins, second, Letcher County, and Cameron Brunty, third, Letcher County.