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Two Graphic Design Program students place first, second in printmaking competition

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Visiting Graphic Design Instructor Erika Greenberg-Schneider with James Foster (left) and Sierra Schneider (right).

Two USF St. Petersburg [Graphic Design Program](#) students were honored recently by the local chapter of the National Society of Arts and Letters at its annual Career Awards program at Ruth Eckerd Hall in Clearwater.

Sierra Schneider of New Port Richey won first place and \$3,000 and James Foster of St. Petersburg won second place and \$2,000 in a competition sponsored by the [Clearwater/Tampa Bay Chapter](#) of the [National Society of Arts and Letters](#). Schneider will compete nationally in Pittsburgh next month for a top prize of \$15,000.

Both are students of USFSP Visiting Instructor Erika Greenberg-Schneider, an internationally renowned printmaker who has been honored by France as a Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters. Greenberg-Schneider was the keynote speaker at the April 13 awards program and discussed the intense focus and hours of work required to refine printmaking skills.

“These students remind you why you teach,” Greenberg-Schneider said of Schneider and Foster. “They never put thinking in their pocket. They are curious and are aware of the work that it takes to be really good at something. They take criticism as others would enjoy chocolate because they want to get better.

“They know why they are in college,” she added, “what they want to come away with and most of all, why they work so hard.”

Norine Noonan, Regional Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, praised the work of the students and their professor. “USFSP places high value on these kinds of student-faculty creative collaborations,” she said. “The achievements of these students clearly illustrate the high quality of work being done in our Graphic Design Program.”

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