Central Missouri State University’s first Model United Nations Team was a recipient of three awards at the Midwest Model United Nations (MMUN) Conference in February.

Central delegates, Amy Moore and Chris Moreno, received the Delegate’s Choice Award for the House Committee on Refugees and delegate Anthony Arton received the Delegate’s Choice Award for the General Assembly.

"Basically, students from other colleges and universities voted on the delegates that they thought best represented the interests of the committee, and that’s really significant," Dr. Darlene Budd, one of Central’s faculty advisors for the program, said.

The team, advised by Budd and Dr. Akis Kalaitzidis of the political science department, sent 11 delegates to the conference in St. Louis.

Central, who represented Tunisia and Afghanistan, competed against 60 schools from across the nation, including schools from Arkansas, Florida, Texas, Wisconsin and Michigan.

"This was a great experience for us to interact with other students across the nation. It taught diversity and teamwork," Moore, who is also president of Central’s MUN team, said.

Moore and Budd were very pleased with the outcome of the conference.

"Given the fact that this was our first year, none of the students had prior experience, and we had little preparation time, the team did exceptionally well," Budd said. "A lot of colleges and universities pride themselves on their Model U.N. teams. They have classes and their professors watch and grade them, so these conferences are pretty competitive."

The conference is an actual simulation of the United Nations and all the committees are represented.

Central’s team began preparing for the conference at the beginning of the fall semester.

"We researched and discussed global issues affecting the countries we represented," Budd said. "Once we choose these countries we are supposed to vote representative of what would be best for them."

The team has begun thinking about the future. According to Budd, there are numerous regional events, a national conference in New York City, and an international conference in Vienna, Austria.

The team is also thinking about which countries they would like to represent at next year’s conference.

"We’ve talked about wanting to do Iran, India, the United Kingdom and France, to name a few," Moore said.

"To sum it up, the conference was a really enjoyable experience, we learned a lot. For the first year, I really couldn’t have asked for it to go any better," Moore said.