

Press Release

Family Self Defense Center students continue to receive national honors

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NOVI, Mich., August 22, 2016 - For the 10th year, the Family Self Defense Center (FSDC) "dojo" was selected as one of the "Top Five Isshinryu Schools in the Nation." The FSDC boasts more than 150 students, including 28 actively training and teaching black belts.

The school is proud to announce the induction of the school's founder and chief instructor, Master Z. Szelap, into the Isshinryu Hall of Fame (IHOF). This is the most prestigious award that can be given to a master in the Isshinryu style. Masters inducted annually into the Hall of Fame come from all over the world, including Japan, India and China. Szelap is one of only 134 masters that have been given this honor in the 60 years existence of the IHOF.



Master Z. Szelap

The following students and instructors were honored at the same awards banquet as "National Finalists" for 2016 in their respective categories:

Outstanding Female Karate Student 12 and under: Shaelyn Carroll and Ameilia Chung

Outstanding Female Karate Student 13-17: Lizzy Arnold, Neha Gogineni and Ryan Swanson

Outstanding Male Karate Student 13-17: Ram Kiru and Abhay Vora

Top Jr. Female Competitor: Shaelyn Carroll

Top Female Instructors in the Country: Tanaz Naterwala and Master Chris Szelap

Top Isshinryu Dojo: Family Self Defense Center

Once again, FSDC earned more national nominations for their students and instructors than any other Isshinryu School in the country.

At the National Tournament, Team FSDC's 20 students earned 23 awards, with three students earning the title of national champion. They included Abhay Vora, first place national titlist in Black Belt weapons; Neha Gogineni, first place national titlist in Black Belt Kata; and Trevor Adomaitis, first place national titlist in Underbelt Weapons.

In June, FSDC also competed in the National KIAI tournament, once again finishing with national champions. Twenty-one students earned 49 awards, with 15 National first-place winners and three Grand Championship winners in Krishna Kiru and Shashank Swaminathan

for Black Belt Kumite and Amelia Chung for Underbelt Kata and Weapons.

The tournament season began in May at the Metro Detroit Open Tournament with 26 students earning 61 awards, including three Grand Championship berths and tournament championship performances by the FSDC Black Belt and Underbelts in Team Kata.

FSDC offers classes through Novi PRCS on Monday and Tuesday evenings in Isshinryu Karate and Samurai Sport Sword, as well as an Adults Only Martial Arts Class. [Click here for more information](#) or visit karatebyfsdc.com or by calling 248-347-0414.

