engineering. His rise from a seemingly average entering NTCC student to a top scholar has been documented by several interested professors at the college. Vaught won \$300.



**Above Judge Judy Hamilton and Steven Vaught** 

Isaac Burris' Caldwell-Award winning work on the "western weakness" of slavery in pre-Civil-War Texas ranked third in the contest and netted him \$200. Burris' study of the relation between Texas leader, Sam Houston, and his slave, Jeff Hamilton, allowed him to document the possibility of a "Vangarian Guard Option" for African-Americans in early Texas.



Isaac Burris with Judge Judy Hamilton, Above.

Freshman Presidential Scholar, Cassia Rose, took Fourth Place, and \$100. Her work on "Legendary Housewives," presented recently on South Padre Island at the Great Plains Honors Council, examined the possibilities of fame for plantation housewives in early Texas. By contrast to Lizzie Neblett's 1863 quote, "fame can never be mine," Rose showed how several matrons attained legendary status.