



News & Events

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Contact: Hany Khalil
(805) 756-2852

Cal Poly Food Science Students Win First Place in National Product Competition

SAN LUIS OBISPO – A team of Cal Poly food science and nutrition students took first place in a national product development competition in February sponsored by the California Almond Board – and are the only all-undergraduate team to win.

Food science seniors Patrice Coudray of San Luis Obispo, Marion Cook of Saratoga and Anne Boin of San Jose earned first place in the snack bar category for a pre-natal snack bar they named “Mizamonde.” For their efforts, the seniors took home a \$2,500 prize. Other winners included teams from Cornell University, which took first in the “portable snack” category, and University of Wisconsin, which won the Grand Prize.

As part of the competition, student teams submitted comprehensive reports to the California Almond Board in November, including detailed descriptions of the food item entered, its formulation, ingredient functionality, a nutrition facts label, market potential analysis, cost estimate, how almonds were used, how the product was processed and more.

The Cal Poly team was notified in early January that it was among four finalists in the snack bar category, based on the report alone. As finalists, the team made samples of their snack bar and sent the samples for judging.

The three Cal Poly students set out to design a snack bar that would benefit women. “We targeted prenatal women, which we defined as any woman who is planning to conceive or who is pregnant. But our bar is also beneficial for post-menopausal women,” Coudray said.

The students surveyed a variety of ingredients for their nutrient value prior to developing a snack bar incorporating almonds, oat flour, cranberries, honey, whey protein, powdered milk, and prunes.

“We designed our bar to be a good source of folic acid to help prevent neural tube defects in babies; calcium, key to healthy bones for mothers and skeletal development in babies; and iron, necessary for blood development and circulation of oxygen,” Coudray said. “These are all essential to a healthy pregnancy and overall health for women.”

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