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Cal Poly Engineering Students Win National Heating and Air Conditioning Design Competition

SAN LUIS OBISPO — Cal Poly Engineering won first place in the Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) System Selection category of the 2011 student design competition held by the American Society of Heating Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE).

Working replica of original Drake Well. (Photo credit: The Drake Well Museum)

Competitors had to select and design the HVAC system for the Drake Well Museum in Titusville, Pa. The site launched the modern petroleum industry with the world's first oil well in 1859.

The Cal Poly team included students Lynn Gualtieri, Evan Olda, Kristin Porter, Navid Saiidnia, Jeffrey Wong and Cameron Young; faculty adviser was Jesse Maddren. Cal Poly's entry was among more than 20 submitted from around the world.

The winning entry emphasized “green and sustainable design” including a solar panel array that would offset approximately 95 percent of the museum’s energy consumption. According to the Cal Poly presentation, the group’s design was guided by ASHRAE standards to exceed LEED minimum requirements and Energy Star score expectations, both of which comprise industry sustainability indexes.

The first-place teams will present their projects at the 2012 Winter Conference in Chicago, Jan. 21-25.

The competition recognizes outstanding student design projects, encourages undergraduate students to become involved in the profession, promotes teamwork, and allows students to apply their knowledge of practical design.

For full competition results, go to:

http://news.thomasnet.com/companystory/ASHRAE-Student-Competition-focuses-on-HVAC-R-and-building-design-600844

More on ASHRAE:

Founded in 1894, ASHRAE is an international organization of about 50,000 people. ASHRAE fulfills its mission of advancing heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration to serve humanity and promote a sustainable world through research, standards writing, publishing and continuing education.

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