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California Polytechnic State University

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cal Poly Flower Judging Team Once Again National Champions

SAN LUIS OBISPO -- Cal Poly's student flower judging team took first place for the second year in a row at a major collegiate agricultural competition in New Mexico.

The Cal Poly Flower Judging Team triumphed at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, the site of the 63rd annual National Intercollegiate Floral Crop Quality and Design Contest.

The contest, held in early April, pitted Cal Poly against 11 of the largest and best-known agriculture programs in the country, according to team coach and Horticulture and Crop Science Professor Virginia Walter. "Cal Poly's first-place finish in 2002 did not guarantee a repeat win," said Walter, "because students can only compete once in this event during their college careers."

Student teams had to evaluate 30 different classes of fresh flowers and flowering and foliage plants, ranking in each class which container was first-, second-, third-, and fourth-best in quality. The students had only three minutes per class to make their evaluations.

Cal Poly teammates Christina Brim of Fortuna, Monica DeAnda of Stockton and Rodney Wilkinson of Bakersfield scored 8,093 points out of a possible 9,000, topping University of Wisconsin-River Falls at second place with a total of 7,871 points.

The Cal Poly students also participated in an optional floral design competition. DeAnda won first place in her class, Wilkinson placed second in his class and Brim placed third in her category. Horticulture and crop science senior Julie Pedrini of Arroyo Grande assisted Walter in coaching the team.

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