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Cal Poly Design Team to Represent North America at International Vehicle Safety Competition in Korea

SAN LUIS OBISPO – A Cal Poly mechanical engineering student design team is heading to Seoul, Korea, in May as one of two teams representing North America at the Enhanced Safety of Vehicles (ESV) International Collegiate Student Safety Technology Design Competition.

Under the direction of Professor Charles Birdsong, students Ian Painter, Elliot Carlson and Thomas Stevens developed a tenth-scale vehicle that uses a light detection and ranging (LIDAR) sensor to aid a driver in last-minute maneuvers around a crash obstacle. LIDAR is an optical remote sensing technology that can measure the distance to targets by illuminating the target with laser light and analyzing the backscattered light.

After an on-campus review in mid-March, representatives from the U.S. Department of Transportation chose the Cal Poly team based on their work, presentation, and demonstration of the test vehicle that anticipates and reacts to collisions.

“At the end of the presentation, the head judge announced that there was no need to confer, that the Cal Poly team will be awarded one of the two North American finalist positions,” said Birdsong.

The Student Safety Technology Design Competition gives students the opportunity to combine on-going and state-of-the-art research in vehicle sensing. Finalists in the contest will compete for top honors by presenting their work to automotive safety professionals at the international conference May 27-30.

To view a video of the Cal Poly system in action, see <http://www.youtube.com/user/charlesbirdsong>.

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