

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 26, 2014

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Cal Poly Wins Academic Olympiad at Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers Conference

SAN LUIS OBISPO — Three undergraduate Cal Poly engineering students comprised the first-place team at the Academic Olympiad competition held at the 40th Society of Hispanic Engineers (SHPE) Conference in Detroit, Mich., in early November.

Cal Poly computer science senior Luis Cuellar from Los Angeles; mechanical engineering senior Matthew Philley from Oceano, Calif.; and mechanical engineering junior Keith Yu from Alhambra, Calif., beat out 60-plus collegiate teams competing in the Olympiad, which tests the teams' technical knowledge in mathematics, physics, chemistry and several disciplines of engineering, including electrical, civil, computer and mechanical. Sponsored by the U.S. Navy, the contest consists of both written and oral exams.

"We arrived at the testing room with no idea what to expect," said Cuellar. "Our performance on the written and oral exams goes to show that the education we receive is well-rounded and effective."

Philley said, "Beating out Stanford and Berkeley to represent our region in a written competition was pretty awesome. Strategy and working as a team were the reasons that we won. I credit my ability to work with groups under pressure directly to all those long hours spent in the labs working on homework and projects."

Each Cal Poly engineer was awarded \$1,250 for the team's first-place finish in the competition, a performance that caught the eyes of company recruiters in attendance at the national conference. "Talking to prospective employers about the Olympiad was a highlight," Yu said. "Our win in the competition promoted Cal Poly's name."

More than 5,000 engineers attended SHPE's annual four-day conference held at Detroit's Cobo Center. The 2014 conference included a job fair that attracted more than 200 companies to recruit Hispanic talent for STEM-related jobs and internships.

About SHPE

The Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers offers a network of more than 400 chapters nationally. SHPE's mission is to change lives by empowering the Hispanic community to realize its fullest potential and to impact the world through STEM awareness, access, support and development. SHPE provides a variety of programming and resources, including hosting the largest annual Hispanic STEM conference in the nation.

For more information, got to www.shpe.org.

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