

Campolindo High School Named 2015 East County Regional Academic Decathlon Champion

Submitted by Jonathan Lance



Campolindo High School's Academic Decathlon Team, first place
Photos Diane Morrell, CCCOE



Acalanes High School's Academic Decathlon Team, second place

At the recent energy-filled Academic Decathlon Awards Reception, Campolindo High School won the 2015 East County Regional Academic Decathlon for the fifth straight year. Along with being the Regional winner, the team will also represent Contra Costa County in the California State Academic Decathlon competition. Following Campolindo,

were Acalanes High School, second place, and Las Lomas High School, third place.

Directed by the Contra Costa County Office of Education (CCCOE) and with the assistance of 180 community volunteers, the county's Academic Decathlon provides an opportunity for high school students to compete as individuals

and teams in a series of 10 academic tests and demonstrations. The subjects in the competition include art, economics, language and literature, mathematics, music, science, social science, essay, interview, and speech (prepared and impromptu), plus the popular SuperQuiz™, a Jeopardy style team competition that brought the program to a close.

Approximately 140 participating high school students have been studying and preparing for this event with their coaches since September. This year's Academic Decathlon theme was "New Alternatives in Energy: Ingenuity and Innovation."

High school teams are made up of nine students, grades 9-12, with a maximum of three students in each of the following divisions: Honors (3.75-4.00 GPA), Scholastic (3.00-3.74 GPA) and Varsity (2.99 GPA and below).

Campolindo was last year's national winner in the Medium School Category. The Campolindo High School team will represent Contra Costa County at the California State Academic Decathlon, to be held in Sacramento, March 19-22. Campolindo High School also won this year's East Bay Regional Academic Decathlon SuperQuiz™, held Saturday, Feb. 7. This year's National Academic Decathlon will be held in Garden Grove, Calif., April 16-18.

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Community Service

Orinda Community Foundation Celebrates 5 Years

Submitted by Richard Westin



Photo provided

The Orinda Community Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing the life of all Orinda residents, will celebrate its fifth anniversary at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 26 at the Heggie

Plaza on the upper floor of the Orinda Library. The Orinda Community Foundation supports numerous local initiatives such as the Fourth of July parade, Lamorinda Idol and the purchase of outdoor art

found in various parts of town. Over the past five years, more than \$150,000 from the Orinda Community Foundation has gone to support children's writing classes, all four Orinda garden clubs, Music in the Park and Opera in the Park programs, and much more. This year OCF is taking on the lead role of raising several hundred thousand dollars to create a new entry to Orinda with a tasteful, yet impactful welcome into the city as you get off of the eastbound exit of Highway 24. The foundation hopes it will say "Welcome home" to all citizens, and "Welcome to the second friendliest city in America" to all visitors. For information about the Orinda Community Foundation and to learn how you can help, visit www.orindafoundation.org.

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