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Construction Management is tops in the nation

Sacramento State’s Construction Management students continue their winning ways, bringing home two national championships – in Concrete Solutions and Electrical Problem – from last weekend’s Associated Schools of Construction (ASC) 27th annual competition in Sparks, Nev.

Sac State repeated as the Concrete Solutions champ – the first time any school has posted back-to-back wins in that category at ASC – and Nick Reali, who also was a member of the winning 2013 team, received a special leadership award.

In addition, Sac State’s Mechanical Problem team finished second in the nation, and the Design Build team placed second in the Far West regional competition, open to schools from California, Oregon, Washington and Hawaii.

“The student competition successes in recent years are a testament to the hard-working Construction Management undergraduate students, the dedicated and experienced Sacramento State faculty, and the industry coaches who volunteer many hours to prepare the students for this level of competition,” says Mikael Anderson, professor and chair of the Department of Construction Management.

“Our students' performance has created a legacy, and it gets tougher each year to maintain this high standard,” he says. “The educational aspect in preparing and competing is a priceless enhancement to the great undergraduate education these students receive at Sacramento State.”

Attending the ASC event to show their support for the students were 11 members of the Sacramento Construction Management Education Foundation (SCMEF), a nonprofit advisory board made up of area leaders in the building, heavy highway, civil and specialty contractor industries. Many of the board members earned their construction management degree at Sacramento State. Forty industry mentors coached and prepared the students for the ASC competition.

“It was an amazing atmosphere and an incredible experience,” says Henry Meier, SCMEF board president and project executive for Swinerton Builders. “The close brotherhood for giving back and supporting the students, Sacramento State and our industry continues to thrive.”
The members of the ASC national championship teams are:

- Concrete Solutions: Matt Davidson, Carlos Paredes, Nicholas Hansen, Manuel Moya, Kyle Simonini and Reali
- Electrical Problem: Robert Clark, Arturo Marin, Casey Moore, Joshua Sheneman, Steven Sleek and Zack Tai

Members of the national second-place Mechanical Problem team are Matt Brownell, Chris Harrington, Konstantine Paxinos, David Vu, L.J. Savage and Travis Zucca. The team members who won second in regional Design Build are Neil Devlin, Nick Staykow, Wasam Hawari, Diego Quezada, Steven Speights and Shivani Kumar.

“The consistent performance of our CM students, which we witness day in and day out, is because of the support of our faculty and industry partners. Congratulations to all,” says Ramzi Mahmood, interim dean of the College of Engineering and Computer Science.

Construction Management in 2012 was elevated to a full-fledged academic department in the College of Engineering and Computer Science. It had been a program for 40 years.

For media assistance, contact Sacramento State’s Office of Public Affairs at (916) 278-6156. – Dixie Reid

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