March 14, 2014

Construction Management team again a top finisher

Sacramento State earned an honorable mention in a tie for a national third-place finish at the Mechanical Contractors Association of America’s (MCAA) student chapter competition Wednesday, March 12, in Scottsdale, Ariz.

Teams representing 24 universities from throughout the United States and Canada began the competition in October with a written Request for Proposal (RFP). The 24 proposals were reviewed by MCAA judges in December, and the four teams with the top proposals, including the Sac State Construction Management Department students, were invited to battle it out at MCAA’s national conference in Scottsdale. There, each Final Four team made a formal presentation to a panel of judges and MCAA-member contractors.

Representing Sac State were CM students Rob Clark, Matthew Brownell, David Vu, Chris Harrington, Travis Zucca, L.J. Savage and Nathan Decker.

“I’m really proud of our students,” says Mikael Anderson, CM professor and department chair. “I’ve seen a lot of growth in them as a team over the past six months. I’ve seen leaders emerge and the students learning from each other. The objective of the competition is to enhance their education, further develop group dynamics and presentation skills, and for them to network with future employers in the mechanical contracting industry.”

Networking pays off: The three graduating seniors on Team Sac State already have job offers from mechanical contracting companies.

The local affiliate of MCAA, which is called the Northern California Mechanical Contractors Association (NCMCA), covered travel expenses for the seven CM students and Anderson, their faculty advisor, to attend the Scottsdale competition and conference. In addition, MCAA waived their conference fees. No expense was incurred by the University.

Sac State’s Department of Construction Management has proved itself a top contender in prestigious national competitions. For instance, the Concrete Solutions and Electrical Problem team won the 2014 Associated Schools of Construction (ASC) competition, and the Mechanical Problem team finished second in the nation at the same event. Most of the students on this MCAA team also competed on one of those
winning teams. CM teams also won nationals at both the 2013 Design-Build Institute of America and the Associated Schools of Construction’s Healthcare Preconstruction competitions.

Construction Management has won 36 major awards since 2008.

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

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