Construction Management students win big again

Sacramento State’s Construction Management students again have dominated the Concrete Solutions contest at the Associated Schools of Construction’s (ASC) annual competition, finishing first for the third year in a row.

They beat out collegiate teams from eight states, including Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and the University of Florida, for the win in last weekend’s ASC competition at John Ascuaga’s Nugget in Sparks, Nev.

“In the 12 years I’ve been coaching and participating in this event, I don’t recall any school walking away with three back-to-back national championships,” says Mikael Anderson, chair of Sac State’s Department of Construction Management.

In addition, Sac State’s Electrical team finished third in the open (or national) competition, and the Heavy Civil team placed second in the region. Two students received individual awards: Andrey Dzyuba was named the best male presenter on all the Design-Build teams, and Javier Alvarez was named the outstanding competitor on the Mechanical teams.

More than 1,300 students competed in 17 problem categories at the ASC event, which is considered one of the nation’s premier collegiate competitions. Sac State sent eight teams to Sparks. The 64 students spent the past five months preparing to solve a variety of construction problems under the tutelage of Construction Management faculty and alumni, as well as members of the Sacramento Construction Management Education Foundation (SCMEF).

“If I had to pick one highlight from this year’s competition, and there were many, it would have to be seeing the former Sac State students – I counted at least 20 – who are now giving back in various ways to the students, Sac State and the event that helped them with their career,” says Henry Meier, project executive at Swinerton Builders and chair of student activities for SCMEF, the advisory board made up of leaders in the building, heavy highway, civil and specialty contractor industries.

SCMEF, in its 11th year, raises money for scholarships and students’ travel expenses to competitions, and its members volunteer as coaches.

“The students’ success rests on three solid pillars: outstanding student talent, unwavering industry support and deep faculty involvement,” says Lorenzo Smith, dean of the College of Engineering and Computer Science. “As a result, people are beginning to expect our students to be among the best in these types of competitions.

“This is a reflection of the students’ ability to integrate theory into real-world problem-solving. It’s no wonder that employers are lining up to offer jobs to our students.” – Dixie Reid