

Soledad High shows winning math teamwork



Laureen Diephot/South County Newspapers

MESA (Math, Engineering and Science Achievement) stars from Soledad High School are Adrian Tamayo (from left), Jaron Huysentruyt, MESA teacher Joe Gribas and Bodie Macias. They won second place in the team math quest, calculus.

High achievers win medals and ribbons at MESA competition

BY LAUREEN DIEPHOF

Adrian Tamayo, Jaron Huysentruyt and Bodie Macias from Soledad High School starred at the MESA (Math, Engineering and Science Achievement) competition on March 6 at the UCSC sponsored event for high

schools and middle schools.

The three Soledad High School students won second place in the team math quest and calculus.

"All students did really well in this competition and I am proud of them," said Soledad MESA teacher Joe Gribas.

The following is the complete list of MESA winners

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in the preliminary competition:
 First place - Adrian Tamayo for solo math and calculus; Robert Torres and Mauricio Yescas for robotics; Elisa Martinez and Tabitha Rathbun for Manila mechanics.
 Second place - Jaron Huysentruyt for solo math and calculus; Elisa Martinez, Tabitha Rathbun, Maria Perez and Sebastian Guillen for the windmill challenge; Robert Lopez, Daniel Reyes and Juan Martinez for robotics.

Andrea Aguilar and Robert Torres won for the Manila mechanics project, and Erk Chavez Zavala and Abdul Mohamed won for the mousetrap car.

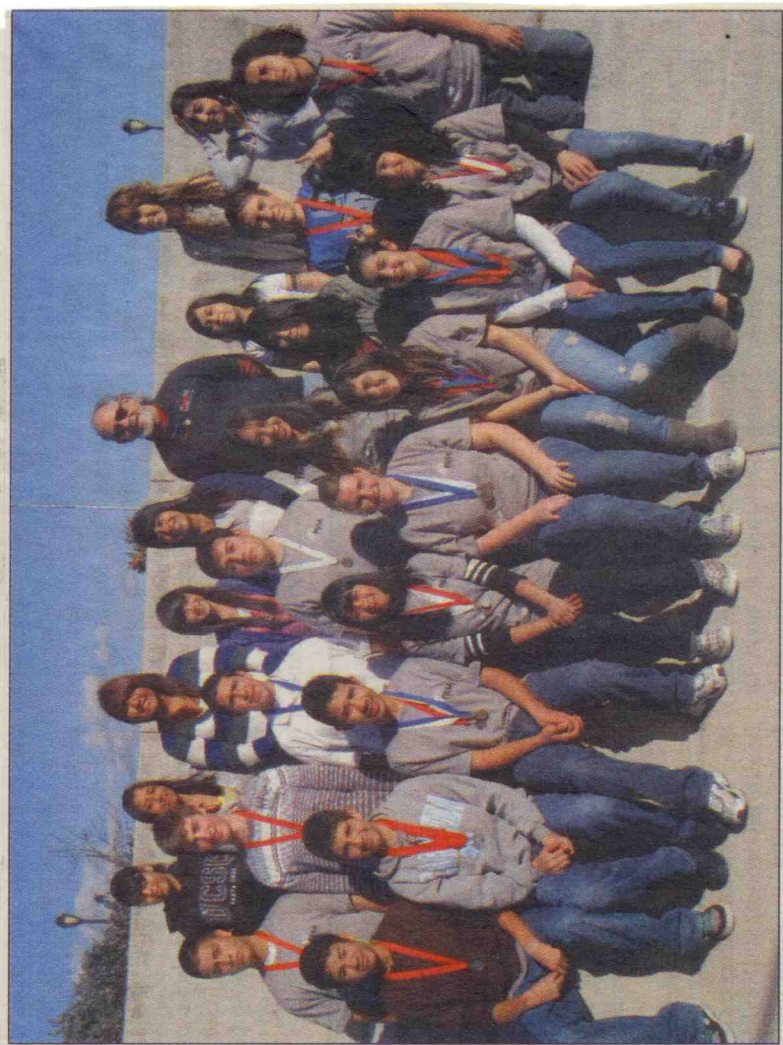
Third place winners were Bodie Macias for solo math and calculus; Andrea Aguilar for solo math and pre-calculus; Lucas Ledesma, Mario Reyes and Jesus Campos for robotics; and Guillermo Alcouter and Katelyn Clegg for Manila

mechanics.
 "Fifty-three MESA students were transported to the MESA Day Preliminary Competition by parents and staff from Soledad High School since there was no bus. Thanks go to the parents," Gribas said.

Students, who participate in MESA work on projects that demonstrate different mathematical and scientific topics.
 The Manila folder project involves the construction of a model bridge using two Manila file folders that would carry a maximum load while using as little materials as possible and any type of glue.
 Efficient design, neatness and craftsmanship are essential elements of this engineering activity.
 Mousetrap cars were made and powered by mousetraps. Students were asked to use a variety of objects such as tinker toys or even CDs for wheels.

To get the car moving, a trap is sprung and the car races off. Winning cars demonstrate the creativity of the student.
 The windmill energy challenge is a competition that determines which team can research, design, build, test and compete with a device designed to capture and use the available wind energy to its greatest advantage.
 "It was a great experience for me to help plan the event and be there for the whole thing. The kids are great and it's very inspiring to see them so excited about math, science and engineering," said Sheryl Robertson from the UCSC Educational Partnership Center.

April 24 is the date for the regional competition with students coming from Santa Cruz, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Fresno, all vying to take home awards.



All participants in the MESA competition from Soledad High School. Laureen Diephot/South County Newspapers

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