

# Soledad Bee

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## High school students win big at MESA event

*Future mathematicians,  
engineers and scientists  
excel at Soledad High*

BY LAUREEN DIEPHOF

Soledad High School (SHS), with the most students ever attending the Math Engineering Science Achievement (MESA) program at the University of Santa Cruz, brought back several awards to showcase their work.

Thirty-three SHS students out of the forty-three who attended, received awards.

"We want to recognize the

Soledad Education Foundation for the grant money they gave us for the supplies needed for experiments and for the robot workings we needed to complete that project," said SHS MESA advisor and science instructor Joe Gribas. "The students did so well, that some will be going to the regional contest on April 9 at Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo."

Gribas also recognized the help of the Soledad Unified School District and SHS

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## MESA

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Principal Jamie Mumau for allowing the students to use the school bus to transport the students to Santa Cruz.

Math instructor Michael Branstetter teaches calculus and Ryan Gallagher is the instructor in all levels of math at SHS. They work with the MESA math students on their projects.

Tabitha Rathbun, Elisa Martinez and Maria Perez won first place for the wind energy contest, beating out older grade students.

Andrea Aguilar won first place in calculus, Maria Perez won third in algebra, and Edgar Hernandez won third place in pre-calculus.

Jessenia Chavez, Victor Banuelos and Joaquin Villasenor won second place in the team math competition.

Winning in the egg express contest were ninth and tenth-graders, Maria Cruz and Denisse Hernandez.

Third place went to Jessica

Yescas, while Mayra Martinez took fourth place and Brenda Marin and Sara Garcia both took fifth place.

Eleventh and twelfth-graders winning in the egg express contest were Guillermo Sanchez and Andrea Aguilar taking first place, and Claribel Garcia and Stephenie Mederos winning fourth place.

Edgar Hernandez and Eric Jimenez won first place in the mousetrap contest.

Joaquin Villasenor, Mauricio Yescas, Roberto Torres, Robert Lopez and Juan Martinez won for their Robot building effort.

Anthony Mora won second prize in Manila folder bridge mechanics and Sarah Garcia and Maria Cruz took second prize in the model of the human brain.

Erick Jimenez and Edgar Hernandez placed second in the Balsa wood airplane.

MESA provides opportunities to educationally disadvantaged students which

help them be better prepared for college and university education.

The following is the complete list of the attendees: Andrea Aguilar, Adriana Alfaro, Mahmoud Ali, Victor Banuelos, Jacqueline Buenrosto, Johnny Cabrera, Jessenia Chavez, Maria Cruz, Claribel Garcia, Sara Garcia, Juby Geli, Gustavo Guzman, Denisse Hernandez, Edgar Hernandez, Eric Jimenez, Lucas Ledesma, Robert Lopez, David Mandujano, Brenda Marin, Mayra Marquez, Juan Martinez, Lydia Martinez, Mayra Martinez, Stephanie Mederos, Abdul Mohamed, Maria K. Perez, Maricela Perez-Rivera, Chantel Pizano, Tabitha Rathbun, Areli Rios, Mayra Rios, Adolfo Rodriguez, Richie Ruiz, Guillermo Sanchez, Richard Sanchez, Genesis Soltero, Roberto Torres, Justin Traina, Joaquin Villasenor, Jessica Yescas, Mauricio Yescas and Dalila Garcia.