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COMPETITION



Tarmo Hannula/Register-Pajaronian

Breana Rodriguez and Alejandro Jimenez of Pacheco High School pose with a model they made of the human brain Saturday at the MESA Day Regionals competition at UC Santa Cruz.

Narrowing down the field at MESA Day Regionals

About 700 students took part Saturday at UCSC

By TARMO HANNULA

OF THE REGISTER-PAJARONIAN

SANTA CRUZ — The regionals competition of MESA Day unfolded Saturday at the UC Santa Cruz campus. The event included the top performers of the preliminary competition of Math Science Engineering Achievement held at the same spot last month.

About 700 students from around Fresno, Santa Barbara and the Central Coast took part in a variety of events, including balsa wood bridges, balsa wood planes, mousetrap cars, egg drop, math and prosthetic arms.

"It's an honor to be up here at the university competing," said Breana Rodriguez, a senior from Pacheco High School. "It's an amazing program. Everybody is supportive and works real well together."

Maia Madrigal, a sophomore from Alianza Charter School, said she was impressed with the prosthetic arms presentation.

"What I like about MESA is being able to hang out with my friends while learning," she said. "It's what makes learning fun."

Only the top students competing in the prosthetic arm event will be qualified to now move on to the state MESA Day which will be May 3 at University of the Pacific in Stockton. Winners of that event then move on to the Nationals.

One of the objectives of the MESA

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program is to increase the number of college-bound students and prepare more students - especially those who are under-

represented and educationally disadvantaged — for success in fields related to science, technology, engineering and mathematics. MESA Day is the culmination of students' yearlong efforts in the classroom. Working with their MESA teacher advisor, students

follow curricula designed to reinforce state math and science standards.

Saturday's regionals were designed for grades 6 through 12 and included several schools from the Pajaro Valley Unified School District.