



Academic

Promoting a competitive edge for college and career

Decathlon

NEWSLETTER

Providing you with the latest information trending at OCAD.

OCAD Mission Statement

To inspire academic excellence and build 21st century skills that prepare students for college and careers.

Alumni Words of Wisdom

“Academic Decathlon was the most rewarding experience of my high school career. Through this program I was fortunate enough to meet my second family who encouraged me to excel academically and have continued to support me beyond decathlon. OCAD enhanced my social, academic, and study skills, for which I am eternally grateful.”

Madeleine Black,

Trabuco Hills HS class of 2015

For more information about the Orange County Academic Decathlon, please visit: www.ocde.us/decathlon

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Woodbridge rises to top as four schools head to CAD



The Orange County Academic Decathlon (OCAD) is excited to announce that four high schools have been selected to represent Orange County as they advance to this month's state decathlon competition in Sacramento.

Amidst a packed house of decathletes, coaches, administrators, and audience members, Woodbridge High School was crowned as the Overall Team Winner (with

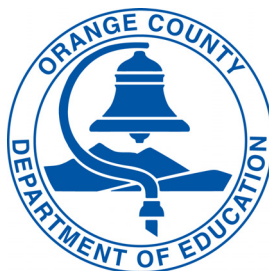
50,675.5 points) at the 2017 OCAD Awards Ceremony, hosted at Santa Ana High School on February 10. Along with the coveted OCAD trophy, a special plaque, and an assemblage of individual medals, the school received a \$3,000 travel stipend from the OCAD Association, which joined OCDE in announcing this year's winners.

Led by coaches Shan Wu, John Tezak, and Mike Nakaue (retired teacher), Woodbridge High has re-emerged to the top of Academic Decathlon glory here in Orange County. 2006 was the last time Woodbridge claimed the Overall Team honor.

Valencia High School in the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District, Westminster High School in the Huntington Beach Union High School District, and Trabuco Hills High School in the Saddleback Valley Unified School District also earned their opportunity to compete at the California Academic Decathlon.

The California Academic Decathlon competition will take place March 23-26 in Sacramento. Good luck to all of our teams representing Orange County!

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Overall Results—Orange County Academic Decathlon Competition

DIVISION 1

- 1st Place: *Woodbridge High School, Irvine Unified School District*
- 2nd Place: *Valencia High School, Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District*
- 3rd Place: *Westminster High School, Huntington Beach Union High School District*
- 4th Place: *Trabuco Hills High School, Saddleback Valley Unified School District*
- 5th Place: *La Quinta High School, Garden Grove Unified School District*

DIVISION 2

- 1st Place: *El Dorado High School Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District*
- 2nd Place: *Esperanza High School, Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District*
- 3rd Place: *Servite High School, Private School, Anaheim*
- 4th Place: *Sonora High School, Fullerton Joint Union High School District*
- 5th Place: *El Toro High School, Saddleback Valley Unified School District*

DIVISION 3

- 1st Place: *Los Alamitos High School, Los Alamitos Unified School District*
- 2nd Place: *Brea Olinda High School, Brea Olinda Unified School District*
- 3rd Place: *Segerstrom High School, Santa Ana Unified School District*
- 4th Place: *JSerra Catholic High School, Private School, San Juan Capistrano*
- 5th Place: *Santiago High School, Garden Grove Unified School District*



OCAD Wants to Thank its Generous Corporate Sponsors

Corporate Sponsors are the bedrock of financial support for the OCAD program! Each financial contribution has gone a long way to directly award student achievement in the OCAD program. Sponsorships, along with numerous individual community member contributions, support program enrichment and college scholarships for students, as well as registration fees and travel costs for the winning teams to compete at the California Academic Decathlon (CAD) competition. With the support of its corporate sponsors and individual donors, the OCAD Association was able to send its top three teams to the state competition and to award \$13,800 in college scholarships to 32 hard-working student decathletes.

Platinum Sponsors \$1,500



Gold Sponsors \$1,000



Silver Sponsors \$500



Bronze Sponsors \$250



Does your company or organization want to help the Orange County Academic Decathlon (OCAD) Association with their mission to inspire academic excellence and build 21st century skills that prepare students for college and career? If so...

Be a Sponsor for OCAD!

For sponsorship information and benefits please contact:
Kristin Rigby, 714.966.4435 or krigby@ocde.us.

Peterson Scholarship Recipient: Alejandro Nuno



Alejandro Nuno

2017 Peterson Scholarship Recipient

Who is he? Alejandro Nuno, a four-year participant on the Kennedy High School Academic Decathlon team, is the embodiment of an exceptional and inspiring decathlete. This year, he took an active leadership role as captain of his team, exemplifying the qualities of scholarship, resiliency, determination, and academic excellence. As captain, Alejandro served as the connector between his teammates and a great recruiter for his team. He continuously strived to get his teammates to interact in meaningful ways, making sure they also stepped out of their comfort zones. He is also the perfect role model for his teammates, as he has a great enthusiasm for learning, the tenacity to succeed, and always goes the extra mile to help others where needed.

How exactly did he make his way to Kennedy’s Academic Decathlon team? For Alejandro, experience and opportunity are the simple answers. Alejandro grew fascinated with academic competitions when he first participated in Academic Pentathlon in junior high. His intellectual curiosity and his desire to be part of something bigger than himself was the guide that lead him to the classroom of Kennedy High School Academic Decathlon coach, Christie Bettendorf. In four years, Mrs. Bettendorf has observed Alejandro blossom into a creative, resilient, and confident young man who is always striving to improve himself and forge new positive relationships.

How has Academic Decathlon impacted him? Alejandro states that, “When I think about Academic Decathlon, I think beyond the medals and titles. I focus on the fact that I was able to share some of my team’s greatest accomplishments with a great group of diverse individuals. Being able to compete with other fellow individuals in a competitive environment and then sharing our accomplishments results in an unforgettable feeling.” He cannot be more grateful to his coaches and teammates for fostering an environment where great minds came together for a competition that champions teamwork, critical thinking, and most importantly, intellectual curiosity.

Is Academic Decathlon the only thing he is involved in? No, there are a lot of activities that keep Alejandro busy! In his academic life, Alejandro chose to attend Kennedy High School to pursue the college-level rigor of their International Baccalaureate (IB) program. Outside of academics Alejandro serves his school and community through his memberships in the National Honor Society and Friday Night Live clubs on his campus. Both these clubs have given Alejandro the opportunity to make an impact in his community by focusing on volunteerism and activism. In addition, Alejandro also works as a Guest Service Associate at Knott’s Berry Farm on the weekends. Alejandro equates a lot of his success to the lessons and skills he has acquired through participation in the Academic Decathlon. Specifically, he states that, “Events like the speech and interview helped me become a prominent member of the two clubs I participate in as well as prepare for the interview that allowed me to acquire a job.” Congratulations, Alejandro! We truly hope you continue to take the skills you’ve learned from Academic Decathlon and apply them to your college, career, and life pursuits.

*The OCAD Peterson Scholarship Award is presented annually to an overall outstanding decathlete who has demonstrated exceptional diligence and persistence as well as great concern for others – named for the founder of Academic Decathlon, Dr. Robert Peterson, former Orange County Superintendent of Schools. Honorees selected for this award exemplify what OCAD is all about. Peterson scholars are awarded a \$1000 scholarship from the OCAD Association, to be used for future college related expenses.



Alejandro’s OCAD team, Kennedy High School (2017)

You Matter: Volunteers Needed Locally!

Every year, 300 local professionals, educators, and community members come together to serve as judges and test proctors for the Orange County Academic Decathlon (OCAD) competition.

During the “JV” OCAD competition, the service each volunteer provides impacts Orange County 9th and 10th grade students directly. Volunteers are the driving force of the OCAD competitions! Without their time, talent, and professionalism, we would not be able to host these events for our students.

The “JV” OCAD competition offers three volunteer opportunities:

- **Speech Judge**—listening to prepared and evaluating speeches on a variety of topics.
- **Classroom Test Proctor**—monitoring a classroom of test-takers and administering multiple choice tests.
- **Super Quiz Relay Proctor**—monitoring and scoring a team of decathletes during a live audience relay quiz in a gymnasium.

Do you want to help hard-working and dedicated teens achieve their scholastic goals? Do you want to utilize your personal and professional skills in a fast-paced and engaging volunteer opportunity?

If so, please visit the JV OCAD volunteer registration links above to learn more about our opportunities and to register as a volunteer. **We hope to see you at the Orange County “JV” Academic Decathlon!**

Upcoming Volunteer Dates

Speech Judge, Test Proctor, or

Super Quiz Proctor

May 20, 2017— Aliso Niguel High School

Register to volunteer at:

Speech Judge: <https://jvspeech.eventbrite.com>

Test/Super Quiz Proctor: <https://jvtesting.eventbrite.com>



OCAD, Donations, and Disneyland!

*Anyone who donate \$50+ by June 2, 2017 will be entered into an opportunity drawing to win a pair of Disneyland Park-Hopper tickets. The opportunity drawing will take place at the JV OCAD Awards Ceremony on June 2, 2017.



Donate Now! Here's How...

Option 1: Donate online at www.ocde.us/decathlon. Click our “Donate” button on the right side of the page.

Note: You do not need to set-up a PayPal account to donate online.

Option 2: Download our Champions for OCAD brochure online at www.ocde.us/decathlon. Click on the brochure link and fill out the form.

Option 3: Corporate sponsorship opportunities are also available, which include various levels of recognition for your organization.

For more information please contact:
Kristin Rigby, Program Specialist
714.966.4435 or krigby@ocde.us.

you can make a
DIFFERENCE.