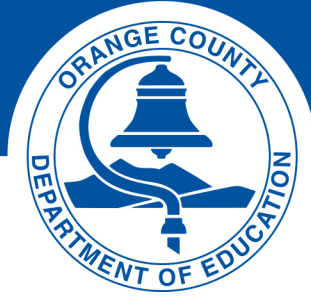


NEWS RELEASE

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Discovery Cube to host third annual ocMaker Challenge Exhibit and Competition Event combines academics, hands-on creativity and the application of 21st-century skills

SANTA ANA, Calif., APRIL 13, 2016 – The ocMaker Challenge has partnered with Discovery Cube in Santa Ana to present the third annual ocMaker Challenge Exhibit and Competition April 29 and April 30 in the Julianne Argyros Showcase Theater and Exhibition Hall.

A private awards ceremony will follow on May 1 to present contest winners with cash prizes from business supporters including AirWolf 3D and MatterHackers.

The ocMaker Challenge is an integrated STEM design project that promotes creativity and innovation by bringing state-of-the-art 3-D printing devices and microcontrollers into Orange County classrooms. Participating teams from middle schools, high schools and community colleges are challenged to identify unique problems, document solutions and use new technologies, including 3-D modeling and printing, to build a prototype. The project culminates in a final exhibit and competition, showcasing a rich collection of student-created products and inventions.

“Discovery Cube is thrilled to be the host location for such an exciting technology and engineering-based competition,” said president of Discovery Cube Joe Adams. “One of our core initiatives at the Cube is to inspire, educate and positively impact the community through STEM education. This friendly competition provides a special opportunity to engage students in the various STEM fields.”

Airwolf 3D, ocMaker Challenge’s main sponsor, will provide an operational desktop 3-D printer for visitors to discover how innovators can turn computer data into physical objects. Families will be able to delve into the 3-D printing process by exploring materials and interacting with a collection of printed parts, and visitors will receive a free cat ring created on a 3-D printer.

Organized by the OCDE/CTE Partnership, promoted by CTEoc/Vital Link and sponsored by Deputy Sector Navigators for Small Business and ICT/Digital Media of Orange County, the ocMaker Challenge combines STEM instruction, art and design in a real-world, authentic experience delivered in the classroom by teachers across multiple disciplines. Judges from private industry, education and other community organizations will be evaluating the projects based on originality and functionality.

About the ocMaker Challenge

The ocMaker Challenge provides an opportunity for diverse Orange County secondary and post-secondary student populations to participate in integrated STEM design projects, delivering an authentic and creative experience that combines STEM instruction, art and design in a culture of inquiry, problem solving and active engagement. Students are challenged to identify a unique problem, document solutions and present a prototype.

The learning model is specifically intended to combine academics, hands-on creativity and the application of 21st-century skills, preparing students to successfully enter the workforce and become productive, problem-solving community members. The final projects showcase mastery of communication and critical thinking skills as students collaboratively generate insightful discussions based on extensive background reading and research. For more information, call 714-966-3531, visit ocmakerchallenge.com, or follow the program on social media using the hashtag #ocmakerchallenge.

About Discovery Science Foundation

The Discovery Science Foundation serves as the program-development, marketing and fundraising arm for hands-on science learning museums in Orange County and Los Angeles. Established in 1989, the original nonprofit Taco Bell Discovery Science Center in Santa Ana, now renamed Discovery Cube Orange County, presented by Taco Bell, continues to inspire and educate millions of young minds through engaging science-based programs and exhibits. In 2012, the Center was named one of the 10 “Most Trusted Brands” in Orange County and in 2013 was awarded the National Medal of Service from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

In November 2014, Discovery Cube Los Angeles, a second nonprofit museum offering an exhibit and program mix unique to Los Angeles, opened in the Hansen Dam Recreational Area of the San Fernando Valley. For more information, call 866-552-CUBE, Ext. 2823, or visit discoverycube.org. Follow the Orange County and Los Angeles campus on Twitter via @DiscoveryCubeOC and @DiscoveryCubeLA.

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