



## PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

### IN CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT

LOS ANGELES SECTION

P.O. Box 3724, Cerritos, CA 90703-3724

March 21, 2016

Dear Colleagues,

The 66<sup>th</sup> Los Angeles County Science and Engineering Fair held last week at the Pasadena Convention Center was a spectacular success. The fair began Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup> and was concluded on Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup> with the Awards Ceremony before thousands of proud parents, teachers, educators, other professionals and science enthusiasts. Since 2004 PECG serves on the Science Fair Committee as a sponsoring organization contributing funds, while our engineers from various state agencies serve as judges on many of the fair's categories of competition to select successful entries for special prizes and awards.

The student selection criteria to participate is based on merit, talent and qualifications. The LA county's student population is very diverse, is the largest in the nation, and has about one-third of all students in the State. The students who compete at this fair are simply the best and the brightest and the competition between them is very impressive. Winning students advance to compete in the State Science Fair, or may advance to the Intel<sup>®</sup> International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF), which is the premier global science competition that gives \$4 million in award prizes annually to students.

This Los Angeles County Science Fair is the oldest regional science fair in the Western United States and has over a thousand student entries each year from up to 200 public, private and parochial schools, competing in Junior and Senior Divisions, and in 38 different areas of study. Their topics range from Physics to Chemistry, Materials Science to Mathematics, Environmental Management to Engineering Research and from Engineering Applications to Molecular Biology.

State engineers and related professionals from Caltrans, OSHPD, ARB, CDPH, DIR, DGS, Cal-OSHA and CA RWQCB served as student judges and together with about 200 other volunteers from the public and private sector, the review and select the finalists for the awards. Judges attend an instructional workshop on student judging before evaluating the projects on-site during the event. Projects are judged on creativity, scientific thought, thoroughness, skill, clarity and presentation.

In addition to sponsoring the fair and offering various prizes, PECG awards two top prizes of \$1,000 each, to recognize the former Caltrans Engineers, James E. Roberts, who pioneered the Caltrans Bridge Retrofit Program, and Marilyn J. Reece, who was the first female licensed Engineer in California. The finalists were selected by a team of special awards judges, who judged the eligible students and determined the winners by the highest score given to these student finalists.

Of about 1,000 student entries reviewed, over three dozen projects were shortlisted and judged by the special awards team. The top 10 projects were advanced for further judging in order to establish a rank for final picking of the winners. These 10 finalists received honorable mention certificates, recognition medals and gift cards from Target stores from the Los Angeles Section of PECG. A photo album with pictures covering the science fair, student projects and awards will soon be available for viewing on the LA Section website at [www.lapecg.net](http://www.lapecg.net). The judges' final vote for the winners of the 2016 PECG special awards was as follows:

1. **Piper Mape Gr. 7** (Saint Mel School, Archdiocese – Woodland Hills) - Marilyn J. Reece Award (\$1,000)  
*Project Title: "Can Magnets Float a Bridge"*
2. **Charles Felimon Legaspi Gr. 6** (Incarnation School, Archdiocese –Glendale) - James E. Roberts Award (\$1,000)  
*Project Title: "Building Better Earthquake Resistant Structures"*

The fair was a big success, the media coverage positive and the public was very appreciative and supportive. The contribution of the state engineers was acknowledged during the presentations and many public officials praised their service to the community. The kids were elated, inspired and happy. The state employees' support made a difference in their lives, thanks to you!

Sincerely,

*Grish Biglarian*  
President

*John Vassiliades*  
Director

*John K. Lee*  
President Elect



**66<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL LOS ANGELES COUNTY SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FAIR**

*March 16-19, 2016 - Pasadena Convention Center*

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

TO OUR VOLUNTEERS AND FOR THE INVALUABLE SUPPORT FROM STATE AGENCIES INCLUDING CALTRANS, DIR, ARB, DGS, CDPH, OSHPD, AND THE RWQCB STATE PUBLIC AGENCIES



**PECG SPECIAL AWARDS' HONORABLE MENTION WINNERS**

1. *Phoebe Kellogg, Grade 8, John Muir Middle School, Burbank USD*
2. *Andrew Karroum, Grade 9, St. John Bosco School, Archdiocese*
3. *Enzo Banal, Grade 6, Walter Reed Middle School, LAUSD*
4. *Jonah Bard, Grade 6, Rabbi Jacob Pressman Academy of Temple Beth Am*
5. *Enzo Pardo, Grade 7, Ribet Academy, Private*
6. *Braden Nucum, Grade 6, St. John Fisher School, Archdiocese*
7. *Omar Yahia, Grade 6, New Horizon School, Private*
8. *Mohammad Mustafa Khan, Grade 7, Al Huda Islamic School, Private*

**About the Awards:**

*In recognition of two former Caltrans Engineers, James E. Roberts Award and Marilyn Jorgensen Reece, the Los Angeles Section of PECG established two Awards, to be presented annually at the Los Angeles County Science and Engineering Fair as follows:*

*The James E. Roberts Award (\$1,000 cash), presented to the top male engineering student either in the senior or junior division. James Roberts spearheaded the worldwide highly recognizable Caltrans Highway Bridge Seismic Retrofit Program that made highway bridges throughout the state seismically safer. He has demonstrated the California seismic retrofit concepts at many conferences throughout the world.*

*The Marilyn Jorgensen Reece Award (\$1,000 cash), presented to the top female engineering student either in the senior or junior division. Reece, an award-winning engineer, literally paved the way for women in the field of engineering as the first licensed female professional civil engineer (PE) in the State of California. Senate Resolution 72, authored by Senator Debra Bowen, has renamed the Santa Monica Freeway and San Diego Freeway Interchange to the "Marilyn Jorgensen Reece Memorial Interchange," after the pioneer Caltrans engineer.*



# Photos From 66<sup>th</sup> Los Angeles County Annual Science and Engineering Fair



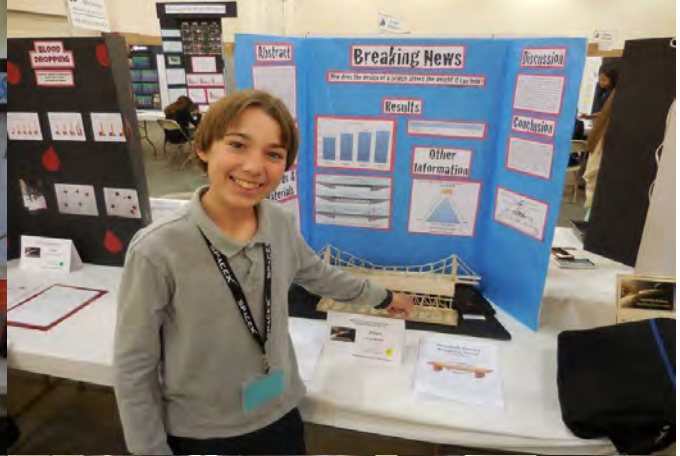


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