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News Release

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Francisco Bravo Medical Magnet High School's Engineering Teams Build Their Way to Another First Place Win and Title

Los Angeles - Students from Francisco Bravo Medical Magnet High School in the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) have again taken First Place overall at the 17th Annual American Society of Civil Engineers Popsicle Stick Bridge Building Contest.

"Congratulations to the fabulous students of Francisco Bravo Medical Magnet High School's Engineering Teams," said LAUSD Board President Mónica García. "They are a great example of the talent that is produced every day at LAUSD. I am truly proud of their efforts! We also recognize the great teachers and coaches who dedicate countless hours to nurturing these great young minds."

"I am proud of these students and their teachers for their exceptional mastery of these skills," said LAUSD Superintendent Ramon C. Cortines. "The faculty and parents should be very proud as well."

Members of the winning team were: **Michelle Lee** (Team Captain), **Fatimatou Diallo**, **James Slong** and **Duke Seo**. The team was coached by longtime Bravo Science Teacher **Michael A. Morgan** and assistant coach **Lanny Larsen**. On February 18, the students competed against 64 teams from 322 Los Angeles County, Ventura County, and Orange County high schools at the USC Viterbi School of Engineering.

Additionally, Bravo's second team of **Jessica Lee**, **Justin Nim**, **Stephanie Lee** and **Jason Bui** won First Place in Bridge Aesthetics with the construction of a Popsicle stick bridge that supported 451 pounds.



Top Row Left to right: Alexander Alschuler (Bravo Class 2005 team helper), Jason Bui, Lanny Larsen (teacher/assistant coach), Justin Nim, Fatimatou Diallo, Duke Seo, Michael Morgan (teacher/coach), James Slong
Second Row left to right: Maria Morgan (team helper), Jessica Lee, Stephanie Lee, Michelle Lee

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For the competition, bridges can only be constructed of standard Popsicle sticks and white school glue. Parameters for the bridge design are supplied by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) and bridges can weigh no more than one pound (453.6 grams).

Teams are judged in multiple categories including technical reports, presentation, poster boards, the ability of their bridge to support large weights, and bridge aesthetics. Bravo Medical Magnet High School's team bridge supported 782 pounds and weighed only 430 grams. In addition to the overall First Place finish, Bravo's team also took First Place in Bridge Strength and First Place in the Poster Board Presentation. This is the fifth year in a row that the team from Bravo Medical Magnet High School has placed in the ASCE Bridge Building competition. Previous wins include First Place overall in 2007 and 2009, and Third Place overall in 2008 and 2010.

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