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NEWS RELEASE - For immediate release

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Outstanding Minds Battle for Bay Region Academic Decathlon Top Spots

FAIRFIELD, CA - Solano County Office of Education hosted the Bay Region Academic Decathlon Saturday, January 27, 2024, at Solano Community College in Fairfield. This year's competition challenged 208 students from 16 schools across Colusa, Contra Costa, Lake, Napa, Santa Clara, Solano, Sonoma, and Yolo counties.

Today's rigorous competition resulted in Campolindo High School from Acalanes Union High School District winning first place overall. The team is invited to go on to compete and represent Contra Costa County at the state Academic Decathlon competition being held March 22-24, 2024, in Santa Clara.

Coached by Paul Verbanszky, the Campolindo team roster included: Isaac Jai, Madeleine McLellan, Nicole Buchman, Sage Davis, Hana Benko, Nikolaos Tzorbatzakis, Viggo Wirstrom, Matija Benko, Shane Wexelman, Diego Urban, Mislav Benko, Alexis Babb, Nina Damiano, Bhavana Kasalanati, Dillon Chugh, Anna Chen, Ella Dunn, Claire Damiano, Marilyn Jia, Zhen-An Chen, Renee Joseph, Beatrice Roberge, Clara Rhame, Connor Larson, Christopher Seo, Anton Klisura, Xiaofei Zhao, Madeleine Termondt, Benjamin Tallon and Laurel Tringe.

Vanden High School from Travis Unified School District took second place overall, qualifying to represent Solano County at the state competition. Coached by David Kenyon, the Vanden High School roster included: Cailyn Nguyen, Alyssa Patterson, Xavier Ramirez, Sarah Salmi, Charlotte Rains, Kindal Reddic, Rohan Kamath, Alan Dorji, Mahi Chanan, Joshua Richardson, Hannah Leibert, Michael Pierandozzi, Brayden Lam, Isabella Lam and Francesco Xie Santora.

Third place was awarded to America Canyon High School from Napa Valley Unified School District. The team qualified to compete and represent Napa County at the state Academic Decathlon competition. Coached by Alma Gonzalez, the team's roster included: Ezekiel Castaneda, Rembrandt Galeos, Alexander Magsano, Haylene Sierra Lopez, Evangeline Pagtakhan, Jesus Coria, Elena Countouriotis, Evangeline Pagtakhan, Arianne Adrinada, Alexandra Villarimo, Katherine Marsden, Claire Miles, Kian Velicaria, Linda Colin Jurado and Zachary Zeng.

Since 1981, the Solano County Office of Education has hosted the Academic Decathlon for local public and private high schools. Students can compete as individuals and as a team in a series of academic test and demonstrations. The Academic Decathlon is a competitive event modeled after the Olympics to stimulate academic achievement and honor "athletes of the mind." The competition provides students the opportunity to participate in an educational forum, which fosters a deep respect for knowledge, cooperation, and self-esteem. The Academic Decathlon includes tests in art, music, language and literature, mathematics, economics, science, and social science. In addition, there are communication tests that include writing



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of an essay, delivering both a prepared and an impromptu speech, and an interview.

Solano County Office of Education appreciates the remarkable support of event partners who help make the event an ongoing success. Travis Credit Union sponsored the competition and provided checks to the winning teams to help offset the costs associated with traveling to the state competition. Fairfield-Suisun Rotary provided barbeque lunch for 300 participants and a multitude of volunteers who serve as coaches, interview and speech judges, room monitors, runners and super quiz assistants.

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Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) provides leadership, support, and fiscal oversight for charter schools and Benicia, Dixon, Fairfield-Suisun, Travis, Vacaville, and Vallejo school districts which serve approximately 60,300 students. Solano County Superintendent of Schools, Lisette Estrella-Henderson is elected by voters of Solano County. The Superintendent is a state constitutional officer who serves as the chief executive officer of SCOE and as a liaison between local school districts and the state.