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OC Science Participates in Math For Service Open House 2016

IRVINE, California—May 15, 2016

On May 15, 2016, OC Science took part in the annual Math For Service (MFS) Open House at Sage Hill High School. This event is hosted every year to promote all seven MFS organizations: OC Science, OC Math Circle, OC Scholar, OC Arts, OC Engineering, OC Coder, and the newest, OC Hacker. Participants got a chance to explore the different stations set up by each organization, experience some of the fun activities Math For Service members get to enjoy, and sign up for the ones that they were interested in.

This year's open house featured a special keynote speaker, Dr. James Li, the co-president of Orange County Science and Engineering Fair. His speech, entitled "Turning the Tide With Commitment to Service," detailed the importance of community service and related it to strengths in college applications.

A presentation by Michael Wu, newly elected OC Math Circle president, also gave a welcoming speech to all the guests. He introduced all the different organizations in Math For Service and gave his own perspective on community service in the STEM field.

A special community service panel, consisting of several professors from prestigious universities, held a Q&A session with all volunteers and participants at the Math For Service Open House. Ms. Debbie Kwon, Mr. Eric Loke, and Dr. Richard Rhee helped answer any and all questions members had about community service, while Dr. Michelle Muratori, Ph.D. mediated the discussion.

Near the end of the open house, Neah Lekan, OC Science Vice President of Digital Marketing and Special Events Coordinator, emceed the annual Presidential Volunteer Service Award (PVSA) ceremony. Math For Service volunteers who put in more than 50 hours in the past 2015-2016 year to their respective organizations were awarded this prestigious award. Members were given bronze, silver, or gold medals, depending on how many hours they put into Math For Service.

After this year's Open House concluded, Math For Service successfully gained more interested volunteers for next year's activities. "It was one of the best Open Houses we've had," says Yuki Yamazaki, one of MFS's members. "It's definitely a great

starting point to volunteer and get involved with many other young volunteers, and you can also experience different aspects of math, science, and art.”

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OC Science is a student-run, non-profit organization working to spread interest in science and engineering among youth in Orange County. In today's ever-evolving society, scientific advancements and new technologies are continually emerging. STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) is becoming increasingly important to our nation's future. For this reason, OC Science aims to provide STEAM opportunities for the young minds of Orange County and beyond. Through these activities, we hope to inspire and instill an appreciation for the sciences among our youth, and as they grow, to support their endeavors and provide outlets in which they can explore their interests.