

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 1, 2015

OC Science Competes in 2015 Fluor Engineering Challenge

IRVINE, California—March 1, 2015

On March 1st, OC Science members gathered together to participate in the Fluor Engineering Challenge. The point of the challenge was to create a balloon-powered car out of limited materials, and to test which car could carry the most pennies across a 30-inch track. Possible materials that could be used consisted of wooden pencils, CDs, paper, and straws. However, the less materials a team used, the more points they got. The members were assigned teams beforehand, and each team worked together to compete for the \$2,500 prize.

The event began with an opening presentation by the OC Science Board. They went through the general rules of the challenge, including what to use and what not to use in building the car. After that, everyone was put into their respective teams. Without hesitation, the members put on their thinking caps and began planning their car designs.

As each teams' balloon cars began to take form, problems and obstacles began to arise, and it was crucial to work together as a team to figure out a solution. Sabelle Huang, a freshman at Irvine High and one of the participants of the event, says, "The hardest part of the event was finding a way to get the car to move all the way to the finish line." Every team had to make modifications in order for their car to fit the challenge requirements, but eventually everyone had a finished result.

Working through these obstacles required a lot of problem solving, but in the end it was very rewarding. Take Edward Wang, a sophomore at Irvine High. "I liked this challenge very much," says Wang. "The hands on experience of designing and building inspired our creativity and took our knowledge to challenge. But after numerous redesigns and numerous blows on the balloon, our air powered vehicle finally reached the finish line with 73 pennies ... [The] feel of success is just remarkable!"

The members are still waiting for the results from the challenge which will be released on March 15th, but win or lose, there's no doubt that OC Science grew closer together as an organization. The challenge was a great way to test creativity and problem solving skills, aspects that OC Science strives to emphasize. With the teamwork that was shown on the day of the Flour Engineering Challenge, OC Science is ready to face any future obstacles thrown their way, simply by working together.

###

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.