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Placentia-Yorba Linda USD Has the Most Schools in Top Places in the 2011 Academic Decathlon

The Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District was the only school district in Orange County with three schools among the ten highest-scoring schools in this year's Orange County Academic Decathlon.

The 2011 winning Orange County Academic Decathlon (OCAD) teams were announced on Thursday, February 10, at an awards ceremony.

Valencia High School's team was the third highest scoring in the county; El Dorado was the ninth-highest scoring; and Esperanza took the tenth spot as the highest scoring team.

Esperanza High School also took first place in Division 2. Due to the number of high teams competing, competition is divided into Division 1, Division 2 and Division 3. This year 63 full teams competed.

Valencia High School, which competed in Division 1 and was the third highest-scoring team in Orange County, earned an invitation to compete in the California State Academic Decathlon competition which will take place in March in Sacramento.

The Orange County Academic Decathlon is a ten-event scholastic competition. Teams from Orange County public and private high schools are tested in math, economics, language and literature, science, music, art, social science, speech, interview, and essay. Each nine member team includes three "A" students, three "B" students, and three "C" students. The theme for the 2010-2011 competition season was *The Great Depression*, as outlined by the United States Academic Decathlon Association.

The Academic Decathlon program, now the premiere scholastic competition in the country, began in Orange County 43 years ago.

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