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For immediate release

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## SCC Team Finishes Among Imagine Cup Elite

**Orange**—A student team from Santiago Canyon College (SCC) finished in the top 15 in the world in the Embedded Development competition of the Imagine Cup Programming Challenge held this week in New York.

SCC was one of five teams in all categories from the United States, and the only community college, to advance to the New York competition.

“Santiago Canyon College is extremely proud of the team and its outstanding performance,” SCC President Juan Vázquez said. “Making it into the top 15 in the world is a great accomplishment.”

The SCC students on the team, Syntax Errors, are Gary Kelley, Jr., of Santa Ana, Hayden Donze of Orange, Dale Laizure of Anaheim, and Bill Vetter of Orange. The SCC students’ proposal would enhance communication and logistics in disaster relief efforts to allow rescue personnel easy access to the location of vital resources. After a presentation Saturday, Syntax Errors advanced to present in the second round in New York, but was not selected for the final round of six teams.

“The team did a super job,” said team adviser Ron Kessler, an associate professor of computer science at SCC. “When you think about how far we came, it is truly amazing.”

The four SCC students competed in the Embedded Development category against teams from 19 other nations, including Japan, India, China, Russia, Germany and the United Kingdom. Embedded programming is used with software for microcontrollers found in cars, traffic signals, communications equipment, and even newer refrigerators and washing machines.

The Imagine Cup is sponsored by Microsoft, and this year’s competition was the first time the finals have been held in the United States. Microsoft paid for more than 440

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competitors from 70 countries to attend the challenge, which showcased innovative ideas for using technology to solve the world's toughest problems.

The team formed last fall when four outstanding students in Kessler's first robotics course in Santiago Canyon's computer science program decided to enter the challenge.

SCC is offering a new 15-unit certificate in applied robotics and embedded programming to help students gain entry-level positions in engineering and development companies. Kessler said the certificate prepares students to work with senior engineers as they develop products for tomorrow.

Santiago Canyon College is a public community college of Rancho Santiago Community College District, serving the residents of Anaheim Hills, Orange, Tustin and Villa Park. The college provides education for academic transfer and careers, courses for personal and professional development, and customized training for business and industry.

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