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Building Industry Technology Academy (BITA) Schools

Compete in Home Builders Council Design/Build

IRVINE, CA – The students of the Building Industry Technology Academy (BITA) from Katella High School, Western High School, Anaheim High School, Trident Education Center in Anaheim, Valencia High School in Placentia, and Brea-Olinda High School participated in the 21th Annual Home Builders Council Design/Build Competition. The competing 12 teams from local high schools, regional occupational programs (ROPs), youth build programs and community colleges, participated in the two day event at the Orange County Fair Grounds April 10 & 11. All teams were challenged to build a 6 'x 8' playhouse structure.

Building Industry Technology Academy (BITA) is a BIA/OC developed pilot program that provides students with practical skills while bringing relevance to high school academic studies and exposes students to the diverse careers that are available within the construction industry. Nearly 5,000 students have gone through the program, which is currently in place in 8 schools in the Southern California area.

Kristine Thalman, BIA/OC CEO comments, "The Home Builder Council volunteers, once again did an amazing job obtaining industry sponsors who made this event such a success. During both days, the competition from all the schools was very close. All the teams turned out high quality structures, which truly is a testament to the quality of education the students receive from their BITA instructors."

Volunteer inspectors critiqued each entry on code compliance, material use, safety and teamwork. Magnolia High School took home the first place trophy in the Design/Build Competition, impressing all by finishing an hour and half early. Jordan High School took second place and Anaheim High School took third place honors. "Our team worked very hard preparing for the competition and everyone did fantastic job. This was the toughest year of competition yet. All the teams brought their 'A-Game'", said David Webb, BITA Instructor at Magnolia High School. "This experience made quite an impression on our students, and I'm very proud of how everyone worked together as a team."

Century Center for Economic Opportunity won first place in the Youth Build portion of the competition, while San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps took second. Congratulations to all the BITA schools for their excellent participation in the 2010 Design/Build Competition.

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The Orange County Chapter of the Building Industry Association of Southern California (BIA/OC) is a non-profit trade association representing nearly 1,000 companies employing over 100,000 people affiliated with the home building industry. The BIA/OC mission is to promote proactive participation in the development of economic and community issues in Orange County. The BIA/OC is affiliated with the California BIA and the National Association of Home Builders.

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