

MONTEBELLO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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**Five MUSD Students Win Medals in County ROP Competition
Medals Mark Historical Wins for District's Work-Based Learning Program**

MONTEBELLO – Performing mock interviews, drafting resumes, polishing presentation skills and completing job applications were among the areas of practice for five Montebello Unified School District Regional Occupational Program (ROP) students who participated in the Los Angeles County ROP Outstanding Students Competition earlier this month.

The students' hard work paid off as each student placed at the competition, receiving gold, silver and bronze medals. Taylor Chavez of Montebello High School and Ernestin Gardea, an independent study student, received the competitive gold medal in Professional Dance and Recreation Occupations, respectively; Jesie Amaya of Schurr High School and Jocelyn Panfilo of Montebello High both won silver medals in Professional Dance; and Alejandro Espino of Montebello High received a bronze medal in Marketing Occupations.

“It is a high honor to not only have qualified, alongside many students from 23 school districts in the County, but to have solidified numerous competitive medals for the first time in our history,” MUSD Board of Education President David Vela said. “We are very proud of our ROP students for their tenacity, dedication and achievement within their respective programs and beyond.”

The MUSD ROP program focuses on providing quality career and college prep using work-based learning. The program runs during regular school days, after school and on Saturdays.

“ROP is key in connecting what students learn in the classroom to practical, real-life scenarios outside the classroom,” said MUSD Superintendent Cleve Pell. “This competition illustrates that our ROP students are excelling at applying the knowledge and skills they are accumulating toward the next step in their professional and educational careers.”

The competition, comprised of over 100 students from various high schools within the County, was held at the Southern California Edison Energy Education Center in Irwindale on March 11.

“This competition is a direct result of the quality programs and quality teachers at MUSD, producing quality students,” said Rick Espinoza, Assistant Director of ROP and Adult Education. “Rightfully so; the state mandates it, the District requires it, our parents expect it and our students deserve it.”

All student winners will receive special recognition at a Los Angeles City Council meeting in May, as well as recognition from the MUSD Board of Education in April.

The LA County ROP program is designed to enhance the essential career and technical skills acquired by ROP students and to support their academic achievement.

PHOTO CAPTION: From left to right: Jesie Amaya (Schurr HS), Jocelyn Panfilo (Montebello HS), Taylor Chavez (Montebello HS), Alejandro Espino (Montebello HS), Ernestin Gardea (Contract Independent Study) at the LA County ROP Competition on March 11.

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Montebello Unified School District is a dynamic learning institution employing top-quality educators. It is the combined work of many that allows the District to continue educating more than 30,000 students every year using the 40 Developmental Assets at all of our school sites. It is through everyone’s efforts – students, parents, teachers, staff and administrators – that we are achieving the District’s number one goal of raising student achievement. Learn more online at: www.montebello.k12.ca.us.