



CONTACT:

Larry Hausner

OUSD Office of Communications

Tel. (714) 628-5577

Cell (949) 244-3881

Follow us on twitter at <http://twitter.com/OUSDschools>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **El Modena High School Students Top Finishers at Rocket Contest**

ORANGE, Calif., June 3, 2010– The results of the nationwide Team America Rocketry Challenge (TARC) are in and four El Modena High School students, Brendan Clarke, Sjoen Koepke, Mika Janbahan, and James Mack, were on the team that finished 8th in the nation out of 669 teams that originally entered. There were over thirty states and the U.S. Virgin Islands represented. The competition took place May 15<sup>th</sup> in Virginia just outside of Washington D.C.

The contest challenged students across the country to design and build a rocket that would climb to 825 feet, stay aloft for 40 to 45 seconds, and use a streamer for a recovery device. The rocket was to carry a payload of one egg and return it to the ground unbroken.

El Modena principal John Briquet was excited for the team's excellent showing. "They worked hard all year to earn this achievement, and their final competition in Virginia was an incredible success," he said.

The team received a \$3,000 scholarship and an engraved sterling silver bowl for its eighth place finish. The scholarship will be divided among the members of the team.

Koepke, a sophomore, said, "Our next goal is to enter the Student Launch Initiative sponsored by NASA. That contest requires a rocket to be launched one mile high."

*The Orange Unified School District is located at 1401 North Handy Street in Orange, CA*

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