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Students from Santa Ana, Orange and Fresno Win 2018 Educators Rising California Competitions

Students Now Invited to National Competition in Orlando

Fresno – High school students from Santa Ana, Orange and Fresno have taken the top spots in [three competitions](#) held by Educators Rising California, making them all eligible to compete in the national Educators Rising competition in Orlando this summer. The top finishers were announced today at the [Educators Rising California Central Region Conference](#) held at Fresno State.

[Educators Rising California](#) state competitions provide students opportunities to develop and demonstrate their leadership skills, as well as their knowledge and skills related to future careers in education. This year, students submitted entries in the Creative Lecture, Children’s Literature K-3 and STEM Lesson Plan and Delivery.

Creative Lecture

In this TED Talk-like presentation, students were prompted to speak about equity in education.

- **1st Place:** Luis Diaz, Century High School, Santa Ana Unified School District (*This is the second year in a row that Luis Diaz has won this first place prize.*)
- **2nd Place:** Paige Lopez, Esperanza High School, North Orange County ROP
- **3rd Place:** Cassandra Ibarra, Sanger High School, Sanger Unified School District

Children’s Literature K-3

This competition challenges students to think of themselves as teachers and storytellers to create an original book, written and illustrated, for a kindergarten-through-third grade audience. The premise of the competition is that children’s book authors — like educators — help young people understand inner truths and to make sense of the world.

- **1st Place:** “You’re Always My Angel” by Elizabeth Raburn and Elisa Garcia, El Modena High School, Orange Unified School District

- 2nd Place: "Little Chick" by Jenna Flores, Canyon High School, Orange Unified School District
- 3rd Place: "It's Okay to Be Blue" by Jennifer Loomer, Clovis North High School, Clovis Unified School District

STEM Lesson Plan and Delivery

This competition challenges young educators to plan and deliver a science, technology, engineering, or math (STEM) lesson of their choosing to an actual classroom of students. Students had to submit a written lesson plan, a short video of their classroom delivery and a reflection piece on what was learned from the experience that will help him/her become a better teacher.

- **1st Place**: "Life Cycle of a Butterfly" Evelyn Reyes, Judith Moreno & Houa Yang, Fresno Unified Teacher Academy
- 2nd Place: "Introduction to the Desmos Graphing Calculator" by Maria Higuera, Madera South High School, Madera Unified School District"
- 3rd Place: "Lego Bridges" by Paige Telliard, Grossmont High School, Grossmont Union High School District
- 4th Place: "Chemical Reaction" Jacqueline Manriquez and Maria Torres, Fresno Unified Teacher Academy

Each year, Project Tomorrow, which runs the state of California's Educators Rising affiliate, invites California's best and brightest high school students to a full-day, and interactive, conference for students who are interested in education and child care careers. This spring, [two conferences](#) were held in Orange and Fresno. Each conference includes student workshops, a panel discussion with college/university students in the education career pathway, sessions with college professors and current K-12 teachers, a college fair and more.

About [Educators Rising California](#)

[Educators Rising](#) cultivates highly skilled educators by guiding young people on a path to becoming accomplished teachers, beginning in high school and extending through college and into the profession. Educators Rising is a national network of students and teacher leaders who are inspired and excited by the teaching profession. Educators Rising California is the state affiliate, run by [Project Tomorrow](#).

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