Two high school teams win national construction awards

By Daily Transcript staff report
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San Diego ACE Mentor Board Chairman Paul McParlane, of McParlane & Associates, announced that two San Diego County high school student teams have won awards at the Ninth Annual CIRT-ACE National Design Competition.

Both projects focused on solving some of San Diego's regional development challenges in city centers and transportation systems.

San Diego High's entry was for the City Centre Challenge for New Imperial Beach.

Southwest High's entry was for the Transportation and Road Systems Challenge for U.S.-Mexico Pedestrian Crossing Area at the San Ysidro Port of Entry.

Both schools will receive $1,000 cash awards from the Construction Industry Round Table.

The competition is a collaboration with the Construction Industry Round Table and the ACE (Architecture Construction Engineering) Mentor Program of America.

The CIRT-ACE competition poses real-world development challenges to students who meet with engineers, architects and designers to create a blueprint for an updated, people-friendly, technologically advanced project that serves the citizens of their respective regions.

There were a record 46 entries from high schools across the country.

The ACE Mentor Program recruits mentors from local architecture, construction and engineering, and other relevant disciplines to provide high school students in grades nine to 12 the guidance and hands-on experience to understand the training and educational background needed to enable students to enter these career fields.

Students work for a year with teams to develop project design concepts, budget and project timeline estimates and how to work with other professionals to bring their school projects to completion.

Last year, ACE Mentor San Diego mentored approximately
270 students and awarded more than $150,000 in college scholarships to high school juniors and seniors, many of whom will be the first in their families to attend college.