



Santa Maria Joint Union
HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
NEWS * NEWS * NEWS
PRESS RELEASE

Monday,
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2026

Students from Santa Maria High School's Society of Women Engineers and Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers clubs competed in the Casting Dreams Competition on February 24th.

The event at SMHS involved students creating their own designs in the sand and polymer molds, and then Cal Poly students poured the metal in the mold. It was hosted by Cal Poly SLO Industrial Engineering lecturer, Rob Carter, and sponsored by the Steel Founders Society of America.

The top three castings were selected by judges at Cal Poly and sent to the Steel Founders Society of America. The winners were: 1st place - Magali Reyes Leon (\$150 Amazon gift card), 2nd place - Diego Grimaldo (\$100 Amazon gift card), 3rd place - Yaritza Farfan-Toscano (\$50 Amazon gift card). The three winning student created medallions have moved on to the national competition to be held next month.

Casting Dreams is a national competition representing the interests of the steel casting industry in the United States and abroad. This creative competition provides local educational opportunities and industry connections that include casting design and production exposure to middle and high school students.

"This was a huge opportunity for two of our high school engineering clubs to come together jointly with the Cal Poly Industrial Engineering program and expose our students to designing their own unique metal-cast medallions. The students thoroughly enjoyed learning about the casting process and look forward to learning more about the metallurgy of pouring molten metal into the molds. There was a kind of magic in seeing the reverse-image sketches become reality after Mr. Carter returned the finished casts back to us." - SMHS Engineering teacher and SWENext advisor, Shelly Springer.

Students found the experience engaging.

"This was a very special experience to participate in. I was able to demonstrate my creativity through something so unique." - Magali Reyes Leon, senior.

"It was so fun! I really liked my design!" - Ingrid Cruz, sophomore.

"This was a super interesting and creative experience." - Camila Rojas, sophomore.

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