



Merced College's radiologic technology program has long been recognized as one of the best health science programs in the state community college system and during a recent competition students in the program walked away with top honors.

For the third straight year, a student team from Merced College won first place in the scientific display competition during the 68th annual Conference for Radiographers hosted by the California Society of Radiologic Technologists, which was held November 9-11 in San Mateo.

Sophomores Analise Gaines and Jairo Ochoa earned their first-place award and \$200 scholarships for a project "that demonstrated and discussed radiation exposure of the abdomen when using certain image receptor systems and technical factor charts," according to a conference press release. "Their research results led to the development of an exposure methodology that could be applied in the clinical setting by every technologist," the release stated.

According to radiologic technology program instructor Mike Enriquez, this is the third year that Merced College students have taken the blue ribbon in the competition.

"Even more impressive" stated Enriquez, "is the fact that while this is the third year in a row that a student group from Merced College has captured first prize, I believe it speaks even better of our program to note that over the past three years all nine of our entries in the Scientific Display competition have taken home a medal.

"The work accomplished by Gaines and Ochoa serves the radiology community very well," Enriquez said. "It is really great that the judges recognized the value of the research carried out by Gaines and Ochoa because they have taken a difficult subject to teach and made it a visual learning experience with appropriate text to deliver their main points."

In addition to these awards, students Mike Arevalo and Sukhvir Billing also medaled, taking a fourth-place ribbon for their display "Applying Practical Measurement to the Direct Square Law." Merced College student Kate Wooster was also named as the recipient of the \$500 Anna Ames Clinical Excellence Student Scholarship.

"Over the past three years, nine teams have entered nine different scientific displays into the competition," Enriquez said. "The most impressive part is that all nine have medaled. Not one of our teams has finished without an award.

"I am very proud of our students for that success. They have worked very hard and it has been a pleasure helping with their success."

For more information on the radiologic technology program at Merced College, call Mike Enriquez at (209) 384-6125 or visit www.mccd.edu/alliedhealth/DRT/radtechhp.htm