



**For Immediate Release  
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## **San Diego Physics Students Set New Records**

The American Association of Physics Teachers has just released results from the 2010 PhysicsBowl, a national competition that aims to test the mettle of both beginning and advanced physics students. More than 4500 students competed in this year's PhysicsBowl, drawn from more than 200 schools across the United States, Canada, China, and the Republic of Korea. Twenty-five San Diego area students competing in this year's event distinguished themselves as never before.

Topping the list, Lucas Brown, a junior at Rancho Bernardo High School, brought home the highest possible distinction, earning the highest individual score in the nation in the advanced division. Brown modestly cautions that this was really a tie, but the two students tying with him were from outside the US. California students have taken the top national honors before, but this is the first time that a San Diego area student has done so. Brown attributes his performance to a passion for figuring things out, a knack for calculation, and years of advanced physics study utilizing the curriculum of the Education Program for Gifted Youth (EPGY) at Stanford University.

David Hu, a sophomore also at Rancho Bernardo High School, took regional honors in the beginning division by earning the top score in the California-Nevada-Hawaii region, a distinction made all the more remarkable because Hu found himself without a calculator at the competition and had to complete all the required calculations by hand.

San Diego also earned regional distinctions in the team category, where the top scores in a group are combined to provide a broader gauge of local performance. San Diego's beginning division team including Hu took first place in California-Nevada-Hawaii region, and the advanced team including Brown took second place regionally in its division.

Some past San Diego students have earned regional PhysicsBowl distinctions, notably Leo Zhou and Joshua Wang from Scripps Ranch (2009) and Henry Tung, Yasin Aalipour, and Michael Vrable from Torrey Pines (2007, 2006, 1999). Brown and Hu are the first students from Rancho Bernardo ever to make such a mark.

Detailed standings by division and region can be found at the AAPT's PhysicsBowl results page:

[www.aapt.org/Programs/contests/physicsbowl.cfm](http://www.aapt.org/Programs/contests/physicsbowl.cfm)

This year's PhysicsBowl was administered as a community service by the San Diego Math Circle for students in various area high schools, including Bishop's, Canyon Crest, La Jolla, Rancho Bernardo, Scripps Ranch, Torrey Pines, Westview, and some home school situations. Space for the competition was generously loaned by the University of California San Diego.

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