

San Joaquin County Office of Education

James A. Mousalimas, County Superintendent of Schools

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
017-044: H2O Hackathon Results

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Team from Tracy High Wins H2O Hackathon

High School students use technology to tackle state's water problems at the daylong Hackathon at the San Joaquin County Office of Education

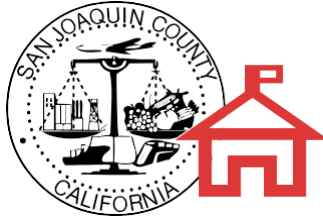
The winner of the Cal Water Golden Spigot Award at the Second Annual H2O Hackathon was a team of four high school students from Tracy High School, part of the Tracy Unified School District. The winning team developed an app that converts information from a typical water bill into layman's terms. It uses visual representations to help people monitor use and save water.

Organized by the San Joaquin County Office of Education (SJC OE) and iHub San Joaquin, the H2O Hackathon was held at the SJC OE on Saturday, March 25. The competition provides students an opportunity to use the science, computer-programming, and problem-solving skills they learn in school to develop technological solutions in a setting that prepares them for the world after school. "As far as learning 21st-century job skills, this really hits the nail on the head," said Bret States, coordinator at the SJC OE Office of STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics). "It involves collaboration, working under deadline pressure, using technology, cooperating as a team, and presenting an idea and a business model to experts."

The Second Annual H2O Hackathon was a daylong event in which teams had the day to use the IBM Bluemix platform to develop an app or a game to meet one of three water-related goals. A panel of experts determined winning entries. In addition to the educational benefits of the competition, the H2O Hackathon aligns with the iHub San Joaquin mission to nurture entrepreneurship and enterprises in the region dedicated to innovative and emerging technologies. The event was supported by a partnership of local business, government, and other organizations.

Results: Cal Water Golden Spigot Award (\$3,000): Team Rocket, Tracy High School
Second Place (\$500): Wolfhack Beta, Merrill F. West High School
Third Place (\$500): Quantum Wolfhack, Merrill F. West High School

Twelve teams from six county high schools participated: Tracy High School (three teams) and Merrill F. West High School (three teams), Tracy Unified School District; Venture Academy Family



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of Schools (three teams), San Joaquin County Office of Education; Stagg High School, Stockton Unified School District; Escalon High School, Escalon Unified School District; and Ronald E. McNair High School, Lodi Unified School District.

The Second Annual H2O Hackathon would not have been possible without the following sponsors: Cal Water, Central Delta Water Agency, Port of Stockton, A.G. Spanos Cos., IBM Bluemix, County of San Joaquin, Herum\Crabtree\Suntag Attorneys, Stockton East Water District, Restore the Delta, San Joaquin Partnership, Café Coop, Media Creations, City of Stockton, and the Delta Coalition.

About the San Joaquin County Office of Education:

San Joaquin County Office of Education provides educational leadership, resources, and services to support schools throughout the county. With its highly regarded programs, innovative staff, and community partnerships, SJCOE ensures that every student in San Joaquin County has the opportunity of a quality education. For more information, visit www.sjcoe.org.

About iHub San Joaquin:

The California Innovation Hub program was codified into law in 2013. It is comprised of 16 regional iHubs, including iHub San Joaquin. The mission of iHub San Joaquin is to help people grow ideas. It works to develop new partnerships, stimulate economic development, create new jobs, and nurture entrepreneurship and enterprises dedicated to innovative and emerging technologies. The iHub San Joaquin is dedicated to re-invigorating the region's economy as a center for sustainable technologies in three areas: healthcare, agribusiness, and sustainable construction technology. www.ihubsj.org.