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CALIFORNIA BUSINESS LEADERS ‘SHAKE THINGS UP!’

“Whose House?”, “C House!”, “Whose House?”, “C House!”...were the roaring cheers of students from across California’s Colleges and Universities. Amidst glowing lights, blazing music, and the humidity of Orlando, Florida, sixty-three California college students paraded around in neckties and blouses in search of “real world” business experience. From June 29 to July 2, students from all across the nation gathered at the Walt Disney World Dolphin Resort for the Annual Phi Beta Lambda National Leadership Conference, themed “FBLA-PBL: The Road to Your Success”. Future Business Leaders of America-Phi Beta Lambda is a nonprofit student organization committed to preparing today’s students for success in business leadership. It is the largest student business organization in the world with more than 250,000 members whose mission is to bring business and education together in a positive working relationship through innovative leadership and career development programs.

The highlight of the event is the Competitive Events Program, where students test their skills in events ranging from accounting principles, public speaking, and word processing. California participants competed against more than two-thousand students from more than thirty other states. Joseph Gazmen and Jaclyn Tuason, from California State University, Fullerton, along with partners Kimoon Ryu and Jennifer Huynh, from the University of California, Los Angeles, paved the road to their success by winning first in the Parliamentary Procedure events, which tests students knowledge of Roberts Rules of Order. Other first place finishes included California State University Fullerton’s Steven Hsieh in Finance, and Danielle Tolentino in Word Processing.

Along with competition students also had the opportunity to gain leadership roles in the organization. Tolentino, who served the past year as National Vice President, for the Western Region, surpassed a field of three candidates, with a landslide election as the new Phi Beta Lambda National President. “I am extremely proud to be representing California as the new Phi Beta Lambda National President. California PBL serves as an outstanding example of a unified state chapter and now our opportunity has arrived to share our success with the nation!” states Tolentino. Joseph Gazmen, former California State Vice President of Programs, was also appointed as the National Parliamentarian. California State President Chris Tuason, says, “I am really proud of all of the accomplishments of California PBL. We doubled the amount of awards we received last year and had the largest membership increase of any state. We have all worked really hard and I look forward to the future successes of our state. This year we really shook things up!”

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