

## **Turf Team Success**

### **1/26/2015**

I wanted to let everyone know that once again the Mt. SAC Turf Teams performed extremely well in Denver just over a week ago. We took 9 students (two teams of 4 and an alternate). We placed 2nd and 3rd in the national competition. It pains us that Penn State took first, as we have been able to edge them out for several years now. Next year will be a different story though! The 2nd place team consisted of Araceli Reza, Cody Chavez, Sean Mclaughlin and Gretchen Heimlich. The 3rd place team consisted of Kayla Coveny, Oscar Del Real, Andrew Han and Jessica Weber. Our alternate, Ashley Simpkins, was allowed to participate on a team which only had 3 members (it happened to be Ohio State). They placed sixth among 4 year schools. The Ohio State team attributed a great amount of their success to Ashley's contributions.

Once again, Chaz Perea dedicated countless hours over the past several months preparing the students for the competition. This is no small task, considering Chaz works full time for the Dodgers, teaches part-time here at Mt. SAC, and is in process of completing two Masters Degrees. What is the saying about if you want something to get done, give the task to a busy person??? Chaz is fully committed to the success of these students, and I wanted you all to know how much work he puts into this competition.

On a final note, I was completely shocked to win of the four STMA Founder's Awards. The Dr. William H. Daniel Award "is given to an individual who has made significant contributions to the sports turf industry through his or her research, teaching or extension outreach. The influence of these individuals in the industry may be highly visible or behind the scenes." The award is often referred to as the Educator of the Year award. Apparently Chaz has been leading the charge to see me receive this award for the past several years (I had no knowledge of this), and it finally happened. To be placed in the same category with the previous recipients is humbling, and it includes one of my mentors Dr. Kent Kurtz, who received the award in 1996. I am truly honored to win this award.

We look forward to being in San Diego next year for the conference!

Brian Scott  
Professor of Horticulture  
Agricultural Sciences Department Chair  
Mt. SAC  
1100 N. Grand Avenue  
Walnut, CA 91789  
(909) 274-4539