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## Building Industry Technology Academy (BITA) Dominates Home Builders Council's 2008 Design/Build Competition

IRVINE, CA – The students of the Building Industry Technology Academy (BITA) from Katella High School and Western High School in Anaheim and Valencia High School in Placentia participated in the 19th Annual Home Builders Council's Design/Build Competition. The competing 15 student teams, from local high schools, regional occupational programs (ROPs), youth build programs and community colleges, participated in the two day event at the Orange County Fair Grounds. All teams were challenged to build a 6 'x 8' playhouse structure.

Building Industry Technology Academy (BITA) is a BIA/OC developed pilot program that provides students with practical skills while bringing relevance to high school academic studies and exposes students to the diverse careers that are available within the construction industry.

Lawrence Jones, BIA/OC Director of Education comments, "The Home Builder Council volunteers, once again did an amazing job obtaining industry sponsors who made this event such a success. During both days the competition from all the schools was very close. This year several schools participated in the event for the first time, including Valencia High School / BITA who nearly completed there structure. All the teams produced some of the highest quality structures I have seen in this competition, over the past several years."

"This year all teams put their best foot forward, the competition was tough", said Katella High School BITA instructor, John Puckett. Volunteer inspectors from Brookfield Homes, Native Sun Construction Services and the cities of Costa Mesa and Newport Beach critiqued each entry on code compliance, material use, safety and teamwork.

Katella High School took home the first place trophy for the Build Competition, while Western High School took home second place. "Our team worked hard preparing for the competition and did fantastic job, despite having only had four returning members from last year's competition. Working with the building inspectors and being able to see first-hand what it takes to put together a structure from start to finish made a big impression on our team", said Jerry Cates, BITA Instructor at Western High School. "Everyone worked together as a team on a very hot weekend and I'm very proud of what they accomplished."

Congratulations to all the BITA schools for their excellent participation in the 2008 Design/Build Competition.

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The Orange County Chapter of the Building Industry Association of Southern California (BIA/OC) is a non-profit trade association representing more than 1,000 companies employing over 117,000 people affiliated with the home building industry. The BIA/OC mission is to promote proactive participation in the development of economic and community issues in Orange County. The BIA/OC is affiliated with the California BIA



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