



MEDIA RELEASE

Fresno Pacific University's Student Team Wins Alpha Chi's \$2,500 Collaborative Research Prize

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LITTLE ROCK, Ark.—Alpha Chi National College Honor Society is pleased to announce that the California Zeta chapter from Fresno Pacific University recently won the \$2,500 second place prize in the 2024 Trisha Yarbrough Collaborative Research Competition for their project titled, “Derailed: Embedded Contradictions in California’s High-Speed Rail.”

Held in conjunction with Alpha Chi’s national convention, the competition carried the theme, “Innovative Scholarship for Tumultuous Times” and was judged by a multidisciplinary panel of professors who assessed nine collegiate teams submitting a written research paper, a formal poster for public display, and a live national convention presentation that concluded with a question-and-answer period involving judges and audience members.

California Zeta’s interdisciplinary student team was comprised of Brook Barham, a junior marketing major, Jan Bialecki, a junior studying pre-law, Paola Gonzalez Mendez, a senior pursuing degrees in applied mathematics and environmental studies, Cailey Lessel, a junior studying economics and philosophy, and Jasmine Sirvent, a junior pursuing degrees in applied mathematics and English. The team looked at the lack of progress made on the California High-Speed Rail – or bullet train – in order to evaluate the efficiency and innovation of the rail project and how it would impact the local communities throughout the California Valley.

As an interdisciplinary honor society, Alpha Chi fosters collaboration among student members from various academic fields, and this annual competition is one way the society actively promotes interdisciplinary undergraduate research. It encourages students to focus on creating solutions for real-world issues, thus exemplifying the Society’s long-standing commitment to making “scholarship effective for good.”

Any active Alpha Chi chapter may form a multidisciplinary team to conduct research around a common goal for the competition. Teams intending to participate in the 2025 competition will be required to declare their intentions to compete no later than October 31, 2024. The theme for next year’s competition will be released this summer.

Fresno Pacific University's Alpha Chi Chapter Wins 2nd Place in 2024 Collaborative Research Competition

Alpha Chi National College Honor Society invites membership to juniors, seniors, and graduate students from all disciplines in the top ten percent of their classes at its member institutions. Chartered on more than 300 campuses nationwide, chapters induct approximately 8,000 students annually. Since the Society's founding in 1922, Alpha Chi members, charged with upholding the tenets of Truth and Character, have dedicated themselves to "making scholarship effective for good." Alpha Chi is a certified member in good standing of the Association of College Honor Societies.

For more information on Alpha Chi National College Honor Society and the Collaborative Research Competition, please visit <https://alphachihonor.org/collaborative-research-competition>.

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