

in the 24 years of this competition, schools representing California have finished first or second every year except for one.

El Camino's tremendous victory represents an incredible fourth title in the last 8 years. Only one other school in the Nation has been more successful. El Camino is the first school to win back-to-back championships since their fellow Californians, Palo Alto High School, achieved that distinction in 1982 and 1983.

This triumph is the result of much effort and sacrifice. These amazingly dedicated students have given up spring and summer vacations and spent up to 10 hours a day preparing. Their hard work and commitment have certainly paid great dividends.

El Camino finished first with 49,009 points out of a possible 60,000, beating their nearest opponent by 723, and were led by their top scorer—Laura Descher.

It is important to note that the Academic Decathlon is set up to award versatility and breadth of knowledge, requiring each student to prepare for all the various academic events. This means that each student has developed a diverse and robust degree of scholarship rather than just specializing in one given topic.

The nine students whose effort and determination have made our State so proud are Micah Roth, Benjamin Farahmand, Jihwan Kim, Lindsey Cohen, Laura Descher, Lindsay Gibbs, Sean Follmer, Brian Hwang, and Kevin Rosenberg.

A great deal of the credit must be given to the dedicated coaches—Christian Cerone and Lissa Gregorio. This whole experience has certainly been just as memorable for them as it has for their students.

Of course, no congratulations would be complete without mentioning the contributions of the parents and family members who have been there each step of the way to cheer these young people on and support them in their lofty goals.

Again, I congratulate El Camino Real High School on this great achievement and wish all the students involved continued success in whatever they decide to do. You have made your State, your parents, your school, and your Senator very proud.●

MRS. SUE PANETTA-LEE

● Mr. BOND. Mr. President, Mrs. Sue Panetta-Lee will soon be installed as president of the Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Incorporated, of Missouri for 2005–2006. Sue is dedicated to the mission and vision of Business and Professional Women, BMW, and supports the legislative platform at the State and national levels.

Sue has been an active member since 1990 when she was introduced to BMW through the Young Careerist Program. She is a member of the St. Louis Metropolitan BMW in good standing and has served on and chaired many com-

mittees. Sue has experience in grant writing, program creation and implementation. She has presented training on numerous occasions in the community and for BMW on leadership, legislation, and many other topics of interest. Sue was instrumental in planning the state legislative conference in February 2000.

Sue is a team player and is a self-starter with decision making and leadership abilities. She has experience as a mentor and is devoted to empowering all persons to be equal as human beings. Sue is a dedicated and creative person who will speak up for ideas that promote BMW and women's issues. She believes that we grow more from embracing our differences and learning from each other's experiences and knowledge.

Sue is currently self-employed since 1998 in private practice as a Licensed Mental Health Therapist. Prior to that, Sue was clinical director for a community health agency for eight years. She has worked in other capacities as a social worker in the community for hospitals and in long-term care facilities, working with all age groups. Sue has a total of 22 years of work experience in the mental health field.

Currently Sue is serving as part of the Executive Board in the position of First Vice President, and is a member of American Association of University Women, Illinois Counselors' Association, and the Illinois Coalition to End Homelessness. Sue was a Young Careerist representing her district at the state level. She has held all positions at the local level with the exception of treasurer. At the state level Sue has served as Legislative, Membership, and Fund-raising Chairs. At the National level Sue has served on the Governance Task Force Committee.

As President of BMW, Sue will make executive committee and various other appointments. She will represent the State Federation at numerous national and state functions, and interpret the BMW/USA programs, policies, procedures, and objectives to the State Federation. I commend Sue for her outstanding service to the St. Louis Metropolitan Area. I wish Mrs. Panetta-Lee and her husband all the best.●

KEN MURPHREE

● Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I am pleased to commend Ken Murphree of Tunica for his distinguished service as president of Delta Council this year.

Delta Council is an economic development organization representing the 18 Delta and part-Delta counties of northwest Mississippi. Delta Council was organized in 1935 to bring together the agriculture and business leadership of the region to focus on the challenges which face the economy and society of the Delta.

Ken Murphree has served admirably as president of Delta Council; and with his distinguished record of public service as a county administrator for

DeSoto County during its early years as a growth-area for the Memphis metropolitan region, and more recently, as the county administrator for Tunica County, MS, he has provided careful and responsible leadership for orderly economic growth in our State. The growth of the local tax base in Tunica County, MS, resulting from the rapid expansion of the gaming industry in that area, has been characterized as a model and a standard by which other rural growth areas are measured.

Ken Murphree has been a strong proponent of Delta Council's programs of education and health care during the past year. His history of involvement in transportation improvements has served Delta Council well this year. The progress being registered on the development of Interstate 69 and the U.S. Highway 82—Mississippi River Bridge has also benefited from his leadership.

Ken has coordinated the activities of Delta Council in a way which has brought consensus throughout the region in areas such as flood control, industrial development, higher education funding, and transportation improvements.

Ken has been a leader in his community, and as he concludes his year as president of Delta Council I congratulate him for the contributions which he has made to this special region of our country. I look forward to his future contributions in improving the quality of life for our citizens in the Mississippi Delta.●

NEW MEXICO TECH

● Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology in Socorro, NM for the school's No. 2 ranking in The Princeton Review's 2006 edition of the Nation's "best value" colleges. New Mexico Tech is an outstanding school and I am very proud of what they have accomplished. This is a well deserved recognition for the excellent work being done by the faculty and students at this fine university.

The New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, known to New Mexicans as New Mexico Tech, was originally founded in 1889 as the New Mexico School of Mines. At that time the Territorial Legislature, wanting to boost New Mexico's economy, decided to establish a School of Mines to train young mining engineers. Silver and lead ores taken from the nearby Magdalena Mountains were processed nearby and the new School of Mines would allow young mining engineers to train near the eventual site of their work. The New Mexico school of mines opened with one building, two professors, and seven students.

Over the years, their mission has expanded to say the least. Today the enrollment at this university exceeds 1,800 students from different parts of the country and the world. New Mexico Tech is an outstanding research university, recognized for their excellence

as a leader in many areas of research, including homeland security, hydrology, astrophysics, atmospheric physics, geophysics, information technology, geosciences, energetic materials engineering, and petroleum recovery. Students come to tech for its outstanding academic reputation, hands-on laboratory learning experiences, opportunities for employment in one of their many research facilities, and its beautiful Southwestern setting.

In the past, I have strongly supported New Mexico Tech and have helped them secure defense and homeland security appropriations funding. In return, they have provided the country with first rate research giving American defense and homeland security planners' better technology to protect military personnel and civilians from attack. They have been on the forefront of homeland security research, antiterrorism efforts, and bringing new job opportunities to the central New Mexico region. The school's hard work and record of success has made it easy for me to convince my colleagues that New Mexico Tech is a good investment. I am very pleased with the dynamic coming out of this wonderful school and I encourage them to keep up the good work.

I ask unanimous consent that a copy of an article entitled "New Mexico Tech Second on 'Best Value' College List" be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the ABQJOURNAL, Apr. 18, 2005]

NEW MEXICO TECH SECOND ON 'BEST VALUE' COLLEGE LIST

SOCORRO—The New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology ranked second on The Princeton Review's 2006 edition of the nation's "best value" colleges.

New Mexico Tech's Web site listed its annual undergraduate cost for tuition, room and board and books as \$8,750 for 2004-2005 academic year, which includes \$3,280 a year in tuition and fees. Earlier this month, Tech's regents approved a 10 percent tuition increase.

Bates College in Lewiston, Maine, whose tuition, room and board costs roughly \$40,000 a year, was ranked the nation's "best value" college. Bates, fifth in the previous year's rankings, topped the new "America's Best Value Colleges," which hits the bookstores Tuesday.

The Princeton Review said all 81 schools on the list offer outstanding academics, generous financial aid packages and relatively low costs.

"It's always pleasing to be recognized and acknowledged for the good work of our faculty as well as our students," Dan Lopez, president of Tech, said Monday. "It does give us a certain amount of presence in the higher education community."

And, he said, it makes people aware of a small school in a more remote area.

"We really have an outstanding school," Lopez said. "We're very proud of it."

George Zamora, a spokesman for Tech, said it's the first time the school has cracked the top 10, although it has been on the overall "best value" list for years.

New Mexico Tech primarily focuses on science and engineering at both the undergraduate and graduate level.

The rest of the 2006 top 10: Brigham Young University of Provo, Utah; Hendrix College, Conway, Ark.; University of California-Los Angeles; New College of Florida, Sarasota; City University of New York-Brooklyn College; City University of New York-Queens College; William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo.; and Hanover College, Hanover, Ind.

The Princeton Review, an education services company with no connection to Princeton University, compiled the list and its book from data obtained from administrators at more than 350 colleges and from surveys of college students.

The Princeton Review said its rankings were based on more than 30 factors in four categories: academics, tuition, financial aid and student borrowing.

"Bottom line: the 81 schools that met our criteria for this book are all great college education deals," said Robert Franek, the company's vice president for publishing. ●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 5:07 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276h, and the order of the House of January 4, 2005, the Speaker appoints the following Members of the House of Representatives to the Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Group: Mr. KOLBE of Arizona, Chairman and Ms. HARRIS of Florida, Vice Chairman.

The message also announced that pursuant to 14 U.S.C. 194(a), and the order of the House of January 4, 2005, the Speaker appoints the following Member of the House of Representatives to the Board of Visitors to the United States Coast Guard Academy: Mr. SIMMONS of Connecticut.

The message also announced that pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 4355(a), and the order of the House of January 4, 2005, the Speaker appoints the following Members of the House of Representatives to the Board of Visitors to the United States Military Academy: Mrs. KELLY of New York and Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina.

The message also announced that pursuant to 46 U.S.C. 1295b(h), and the order of the House of January 4, 2005, the Speaker appoints the following Member of the House of Representatives to the Board of Visitors to the United States Merchant Marine Academy: Mr. KING of New York.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-1811. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, the report of a proposed bill entitled "Passenger Rail Investment Reform Act," received on April 18, 2005; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1812. A communication from the Commandant, United States Coast Guard, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of proposed legislation entitled "Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2005"; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1813. A communication from the Under Secretary, Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services, Department of Agriculture, the report of a rule entitled "Food Stamp Program, Regulatory Review: Standards for Approval and Operation of the Food Stamp Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) Systems" (RIN0584-AC37) received on April 18, 2005; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1814. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Tuberculosis in Cattle and Bison; State and Zone Designations; California" (APHIS Docket No. 05-010-1) received on April 18, 2005; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1815. A communication from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Milk in the Northeast Marketing Area—Final Order" (DA-02-01; AO-14-A70) received on April 18, 2005; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1816. A communication from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Milk in the Pacific Northwest Marketing Area—Final Order" (DA-01-08-PNW; AO-368-A30) received on April 18, 2005; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1817. A communication from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulation Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Tax Exempt Bond Partnership Lookthrough II" (Rev. Proc. 2005-20) received on April 18, 2005; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1818. A communication from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulation Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Withholding Exemptions" ((RIN1545-BE21) (TD 9196)) received on April 18, 2005; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1819. A communication from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulation Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Classification of Certain Foreign Entities" ((RIN1545-BD78) (TD 9197)) received on April 18, 2005; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1820. A communication from the President and Chairman, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a transaction involving U.S. exports to Kenya; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.