

Del Norte students win drone competition

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On Wednesday, April 12, students from Del Norte Unified School District and Orange County Unified School District went head to head in their first Drone League competition.

The event, held at the Del Norte High School stadium, showcased the innovative drone technology used in schools in Del Norte County and Orange County.

The competition consisted of three rounds, each with different challenges designed to test the skill, precision, and coding abilities of the competing teams.

Round one involved navigating through an obstacle course, round two focused on autonomous flight, and round three required teams to complete a mission by retrieving a core sample from a simulated planet's surface.

After three rounds of competition, Del Norte Unified School District emerged as the winner, claiming the championship trophy, with Orange County Unified School District awarded the runner-up position.

"The Del Norte team put on a fantastic performance, and we are thrilled to see them take home the trophy," said Rae Fearing, the director of innovation and special projects, "The competition was a great opportunity for students to showcase their skills in drone technology and learn from each other."

The Drone League competition was made possible through the support of partner organizations, Woven Learning and Technology, and Orange Unified School District. The event also received support from the Del Norte County Office of Education as part of its initiative to teach science, math, and engineering concepts through critical thinking, analysis, and collaboration in real-world contexts through hands-on learning with technology.

“We are thrilled to see the success of the Drone League competition and its impact on promoting STEM education in schools,” said Jeff Harris, Superintendent of Schools for Del Norte County. “Events like these provide students with the opportunity to develop skills in technology and innovation that will be invaluable in their future careers.”