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State Geographic Bee Sends Danville Student to Finals

The state finals of the Geographic Bee sends a Danville student to the national competition next month in Washington D.C.

After several rounds, Alek Venturino, an 8th grader, came out on top. With hundreds of other competitors, friends and family watching, Venturino was the only one able to answer the question: Name the largest city on the island of Hispaniola. The young geographic wizard answered Santo Domingo, which will send him to the national competition in May with the hope of winning a \$25,000 college scholarship and becoming the national champion. Venturino is not new to the Geographic Bee, previously competing two times in the competition. "I'm proud....I'm going to have a crowd around me when I get home," Venturino said. "Confidence is key and you have to think about other things, not that there's 300 people watching."

Rounding out the top 10 were:

2. Danny Kim, Cupertino (7th grade)
3. Kenan Perry, Tiburon (7th grade)
4. Thomas Horn, Piedmont (7th grade)
5. Kevin Lu, Oak Park (7th grade) tied
5. Justin Robbins, Napa (7th grade)
7. John Menhennet, Solana Beach (7th grade)
8. Akshay Aitha, Dublin (8th grade)
9. Jarrod Baniqued, Woodland (5th grade) tied
9. Ethan Kassel, Burlingame (8th grade)

The state Bees were the second level of the annual National Geographic Bee. The first level began last November with contests in more than 15,000 U.S. schools, in which nearly five million students participated. Of the participants, 102 students made it to the finals.

Cosumnes River College is part of the Los Rios Community College District.

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Attached photos:

7972: 2nd place winner Danny Kim (left) fist bumps 1st place winner Alek Venturino (right)

7987: (left to right) 3rd place winner Kenan Perry, 2nd place winner Danny Kim, and 1st place winner Alek Venturino receive their awards from State Coordinator Stephen Cunha

8002: 1st place winner Alek Venturino

8004: 1st place winner Alek Venturino with State Coordinator Stephen Cunha.

Photo credit: Lisa Kivett