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State Geographic Bee Sends Los Angeles Student to Finals

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

After several rounds to get to a winner, Ryland Lu, an 8th grader, came out on top. With hundreds of other competitors, friends and family watching, Lu was the only one able to answer the question: Seventy percent unemployment and a severe fuel shortage have virtually paralyzed economic activity in which country east of Botswana? The young geographic wizard answered Zimbabwe, 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. Lu is not new to Geographic Bee's. Last year, Lu placed second in the state finals and came in first when he was in the 6th grade. Lu missed only one question all day. "I can't believe I missed one," he said. Lu started competing in the state Geographic Bee as early as he could, as a 4th grader. He came in 4th place that year.

Rounding out the top 10 were:

2. Joshua Cohen, Los Altos (7th grade)
3. Nikhil Desai, Newark (6th grade)
4. Nicholas Rode, El Cajon
5. Albert Young, Bakersfield
6. (tie) Robert Samuels, Pasadena
Matej Sebo, San Diego
Nikhil Subramaniam, San Jose
9. Alexander Popof, Huntington Beach
10. Chase Dwyer, Loomis

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.

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

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