



NEW YORK CITY COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY
CITY TECH
300 JAY STREET • NAMM HALL 322 • BROOKLYN, NY 11201-1909
OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

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Contact: Denise H. Sutton
718.260.5979
Fax 718.260.8553
dsutton@citytech.cuny.edu

Dale Tarnowieski
718.260.5695
Fax 718.260.8553
dtarnowieski@citytech.cuny.edu

City Tech's Solar Decathlon Team DURA's Trip to California Marks Milestone in Competition

Brooklyn, NY—April 24, 2015—In early January, fifteen Team DURA members traveled to Irvine, California for the Department of Energy's Solar Decathlon design development meetings. The 2015 Solar Decathlon teams are now at the one-and-a-half year mark in a two-year process to build solar-powered, highly energy-efficient houses that combine affordability, innovation and design excellence. The teams will design, construct and test their houses before reassembling them in fall 2015 at the competition site at the Orange County Great Park in Irvine, California.

Last year a group of City Tech students were selected as one of 20 teams worldwide to compete in the U.S. Department of Energy's 2015 Solar Energy Decathlon. The team chose the acronym DURA, which stands for Diverse, Urban, Resilient, Adaptable. City Tech will honor Team DURA at its "Champions of the Environment" 2015 Best of New York Award Dinner on May 18, for their commitment to educating and informing the community about sustainable energy, renewable resources and new approaches to greening urban residential spaces.

The only team from New York City and the only team comprised entirely of undergraduate students, Team DURA is competing with those from Yale University, Oregon Institute of Technology, SUNY, University of Florida, National University of Singapore, The University of Texas/ Austin, Technische Universitaet Muenchen, University of California/Davis, University of California/Irvine, Vanderbilt University, and University of Roma Tor Vergata, among others.

Kicking off Team DURA's visit was an informative tour of the 39,000-acre Tierra Verde recycling/composting facility. Team DURA also visited the lot on which they will assemble their home after its cross-country trip, taping out the DURA home to provide a sense of dimensions and space.

The Solar Decathlon organizers hosted a dinner, after which the teams gave their presentations, complete with renderings and floor plans. Teams also met individually with Department of Energy officials who gave insight on what was going well and where improvement was needed for each category, which includes: event scheduling and logistics, rules and design deliverables, building code, DC electrical, site operations, grid interconnection, health and safety, affordability contest, public exhibit, website and social media, media relations, sponsorship guidance, and financial grant management.

"I thought that the trip was a wonderful opportunity; it was a great experience meeting Department of Energy officials and brainstorming with them about how to make our home the best that it can be. I really enjoyed meeting the members of the other teams, and it reminded me that, though of course we would all love to win, we all have already won just by being in the competition," said Team DURA member Evgenia Gorovaya.

Team DURA's faculty leader is Assistant Professor Alexander Aptekar, Department of Architectural Technology. Amanda Waal is the Team DURA project coordinator.

Team DURA thanks everyone who made this trip possible: City Tech's Student Government Association, the Department of Energy, the City of Irvine, Hotel Irvine, and the City Tech Foundation.

To view complete details on the competition and competitors, visit <http://www.solardecathlon.gov/>.

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About City Tech (New York City College of Technology)

City Tech, of The City University of New York, is the largest four-year public college of technology in the Northeast and a national model for technological education. City Tech has an enrollment of more than 17,000 students in 24 baccalaureate and 27 associate degree programs. For more information, visit www.citytech.cuny.edu.