

Media Contact:  
Anne O'Dea  
Director of Marketing  
Immaculate Conception Academy  
Phone: (415) 824-2052  
Cell: (317) 371-1550  
Email: [anneodea@icacademy.org](mailto:anneodea@icacademy.org)

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**Immaculate Conception Academy Juniors and Seniors Invited to Participate in the Engineer's Alliance for the Arts Student Impact Project.**

Immaculate Conception Academy, San Francisco, CA: 18 junior and seniors from Miss GiGi Tan's Pre-Calculus and honors Pre-Calculus classes will participate in a bridge building contest ----- by invitation only ----- that is designed to educate high school students on the basics of structural engineering.

During the last 8 weeks, students have been working with engineers from companies like Degenkolb, DeSimone, Forell Elsesser . Representatives from these firms have visited the school and taught the girls about different bridge types, arch and suspension concepts, truss and beam concepts as well as the basics of structural engineering, teamwork and applications of math.

Said Miss Tan, Chair of the Math Department at Immaculate Conception Academy, "This is a unique opportunity to learn how basic applications of math have been used to build some of the most amazing structural engineering feats in the country. The girls then have a chance to build their own. We feel very lucky to participate in this program."

Miss Tan went on to say, "It is a cool project. The students are given three scenarios from which to choose. They pick a scenario and design a prototype which they will sell to a panel of judges. Students will be expected to test the bridges to failures and then discuss failure/observations." First place is a trophy and a \$100.00 for each team member.

The competition begins at 2:00 on Saturday April 25th at the PG & E Auditorium, 245 Market Street. For more information please call Anne O'Dea.

Immaculate Conception Academy is a Catholic, college-preparatory high school for girls founded by the Dominican Sisters Mission San Jose in 1883. Beginning in the 2009, ICA will become the first Cristo Rey School in San Francisco, and the only all-girls school in the Cristo Rey Network. The Cristo Rey Network, funded by the Cassin Educational Initiative and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundations, is a national association of high schools that provide high-quality, Catholic, college preparatory education to urban youth who live in communities with limited educational options. All Cristo Rey schools incorporate an innovative corporate work study program whereby teams of four students constitute one full-time equivalent entry-level clerical worker. Corporate sponsors include law firms, hospitals, insurance companies, banks, accounting firms, universities and media companies, among others. This program not only allows students to earn a majority of the funds to cover their educational expenses, but also opens the door to possibilities in the corporate world not otherwise readily available to them. For more information please see [www.icacademy.org](http://www.icacademy.org) or [www.cristoreynetwork.org](http://www.cristoreynetwork.org)