



STANFORD ECONOMICS ASSOCIATION

2018 Stanford Pre-Collegiate Economics Competition

On Saturday, April 7, 2018, the Stanford Economics Association hosted the Stanford Pre-Collegiate Economics Competition. After months of planning by the SPEC Committee, comprised of Emily Ruan, Aaron Han, Mary Zhu, and Christine Decker, we are very proud to say that SPEC 2018 was a success.

SPEC 2018 was SEA's second year of holding the competition, and we collectively decided to alter this year's competition format to more accurately reflect national economics competition standards and current events. As such, SPEC 2018 had two components: 1) a case competition, where teams presented their views on the Trump administration's recent aluminum and steel tariffs, and 2) a quiz bowl, where teams were tested on their knowledge of key economic terms, events, and people.

This year, we had eight high school teams competing from across the United States and Canada. The winners were Canyon Crest Academy (1st place), Monta Vista High School (2nd place), and Phillips Exeter Academy (3rd place). We were all very impressed with the depth of understanding, level of expertise, and enthusiasm that the students displayed.

Planning and putting on SPEC was no easy feat, and would have been impossible without all of the support we received. SEA would like to extend our gratitude to everyone involved in helping to bring SPEC 2018 to fruition. We'd like to thank the Economics Department, as well as Professor Mark Duggan and SIEPR, for their generous funding. We were able to purchase beautiful trophies, medals, and T-shirts for all of our participants. Joanne DeMarchena and Susan Taylor were especially supportive throughout the entire process, going out of their way to help us and provide everything from snacks and drinks to poster boards and pens.

Our wholehearted thanks go to Professor Chris Makler for making time in his busy day to judge the case competition. All of the students were extremely grateful to hear Professor Makler's short lecture on tariffs after the case competition, and valued the opportunity to ask for his comments and suggestions on how to improve. We are also indebted to Professor John Taylor for giving a talk on American economic growth and providing copies of his book for the participants. Upon learning that Professor Taylor was signing books, one participant noted, "This day just keeps getting better and better!"

We look forward to hosting SPEC again next year (and for many years to come!), and the students that participated this year expressed excitement in returning for next year's competition. Once again, thank you all.

Warmly,
Michelle Li and Tyler Cho
SEA Co-Presidents 2017-2018

Photos of the event can be accessed [here](#).