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**PRESS RELEASE – For Immediate Release**

**MJC Athletics Program Ranks High in Annual State Poll**

(Modesto, CA)— The Modesto Junior College athletics program finished 13<sup>th</sup> out of 107 California community colleges (7<sup>th</sup> in Northern California) in the annual NATYCAA Cup standings. Boosting MJC's standings by five notches over last year's ranking were the particularly successful performances of the 2015-16 MJC Men's and Women's Golf, Women's Soccer, Men's Wrestling, Men's and Women's Tennis, and the Men's and Women's Track & Field teams.

Mt. San Antonio College (Walnut, CA) topped the final standings with their fourth straight NATYCAA Cup. Coming in second was Cerritos College (Norwalk, CA), and third was Fresno City College.

The NATYCAA (National Alliance of Two-Year College Athletic Administrators) is the professional organization of two-year college athletic administrators and membership is open to all two-year institutions throughout the country. The NATYCAA Awards were designed to recognize and reward overall program excellence at the two-year college level.

"We had an outstanding year for MJC athletics. Of the top 15 ranked athletic programs in the State, six (including MJC) are from the highly competitive Big 8 Conference. Student athletes that come to Modesto do and will get noticed, both academically and athletically," stated MJC athletic director Nick Stavrianoudakis. "MJC's success is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our head coaches and student athletes."

A college is awarded points based on its team's final positions in post-conference competition. Each college's top-five men's and top-five women's team results count toward the school's overall point total. Complete standings, scoring criteria, and history of the NATYCAA Cup is available on the CCCAA website, <http://cccaasports.org/NATYCAA/index>.

**-MJC-**

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