2012 Science Fair

Connecticut Science Fair Association, Inc.



Statewide Science Fair Quinnipiac University, March 13 – 17, 2012

www.ctsciencefair.org

For Immediate Release Connecticut Science Fair Media Advisory

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March 13-17, 2012

Innovation in Action: Middle- and High-School Students Compete for More than \$120K in Prizes at CT Science Fair

HAMDEN, Conn., Feb. 28, 2012 -- We keep hearing that innovation is the key to turning around the economy of not only Connecticut, but also the nation. The media is invited to see innovation in action on March 15, when about 150 Connecticut Science Fair (CSF) finalists, (middle- and high-school students, who are tomorrow's leaders in science, technology, engineering and math,) present their research to nearly 300 volunteer judges from government, academia, professional societies and industry. These 150 finalists, selected from the 600 student competitors at the 64th annual CSF being held at Quinnipiac University in Hamden, will compete for more than \$120,000 as well as several trips to represent the state at international competitions.

This event brings together the best of the best. Participants have been selected from more than 12,000 students throughout Connecticut and several bordering New York state towns who have participated in local science fairs during the current school year.

"The Connecticut Science Fair stands year after year as a shining example of Connecticut's commitment to the science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education of the next generation," said Allan Smits, associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Quinnipiac University. "It is an honor for Quinnipiac University to continue hosting this special competition and recognition of tomorrow's leaders in STEM. It is also a refreshing reminder of how important education is, and what marvelous creativity our youth have in store."

"Many of these students are working on top-level research projects, some of which have lasted for several years," said CSF Fair Director Bob Wisner, who was a top winner at the event himself in the 1960s. "Our science fair is not filled with baking soda volcanoes. The research has depth and is innovative. Many of these students are working with top researchers at leading Connecticut universities."

Some of the interesting project titles that students are working on for this year's fair are:

- Determining the Amount of Energy in Sports Drinks Using Calorimetry
- The Use of Social Entrepreneurship and Piezoelectric Energy-Harvesting Devices in Footwear to Limit Energy Poverty in Africa

- Investigating the Hygiene Hypothesis: A Case-Control Study of Food Allergies and Age of Food Allergen Exposure in High School Teenagers
- Polyvinylidene Flouride (PVDF) Piezoelectric Generator: A Novel Approach to Harvesting Vibrations from Human Respiration to Power Biological Implant Devices
- Should a School Advertise more Sports or Academics Online?
- A Bright Idea: Comparing the Efficiency of Incandescent, CFL and LED Light Bulb

The media is invited to see innovation in action as the 150 student finalists showcase their research during final judging between 8:30 a.m. and 1:15 p.m. on Thursday, March 15. STUDENTS AND JUDGES WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEWS. Another potential media opportunity exists on Saturday, March 17, during the Finalist Award Ceremony.

ALL WINNERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED TO THE MEDIA IN ONE PRESS RELEASE TO BE ISSUED ON SATURDAY AT 1:00 PM.

In addition to the State Fair Awards, some of the CSF's top winners will represent the state and compete for more than \$5 million in cash and scholarships at competitions including the Intel International Science & Engineering Fair, the world's largest precollege science fair, the International Sustainable World Engineering, Energy & Environment Project Olympiad (<u>I-SWEEEP</u>) <u>GENIUS Olympiad</u> and the <u>BROADCOM Masters Competition</u>.

The schedule during fair week is:

Tuesday, March 13

12:30 - 7:30 pm

Project set up

Wednesday, March 14

9 am - 2 pm

Preliminary and Special Awards Judging (Students ARE NOT present)

<u>Thursday, March 15</u>
9 am – 1:15 pm BEST MEDIA OPPORTUNITY
Finalist Judging - 150 student finalists and 300 volunteer judges ARE present and
available for interviews

Saturday, March 19

9 am - 10:30 am S_1

Special Awards Ceremony

11 am - 1 pm

Finalist Awards Ceremony

All events are held in the **Gymnasium**.

<u>Broadcast media</u> interested in doing live broadcasts may contact Karen Cohen (Connecticut Science Fair) at 860.228.5188 or 860.455.6459 (cell) or twstuff@aol.com or John Morgan (Quinnipiac University) at 203.582.5359 or john.morgan@quinnipiac.edu for arrangements.

For more information about the 2012 fair, visit www.ctsciencefair.org