



For Immediate Release
Connecticut Science Fair
Media Advisory

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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*

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

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