



Mercer Science and Engineering Fair

Mercer Science and Engineering Club

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www.mercersec.org



Dear School Administrators,

Have you heard about the annual Mercer Science and Engineering Fair? We hope so. It is the regional science competition opportunity open to all students attending school in Mercer County. The fair takes place every March at Rider University, and draws over 1,500 Mercer County students, parents, and industry leaders each year. The fair is held in cooperation with Society for Science and the Public (SSP) that administers the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) and the Broadcom Masters competition.

We are hoping that you can let your students, parents and teachers know about the fair. We have hand-outs for students and another for teachers. These provide more information about the fair. We would appreciate it if you could distribute this information so others will know about the fair. Many students do projects in the summer, as part of a class or in a club that would be suitable for presentation at the fair.

The competition is for individuals. Projects do not have to be done at or in conjunction with the school or as part of a curriculum. Likewise, teacher support is not required but this can be very helpful for students. There is no charge to students to enter the competition.

Mercer Science and Engineering Club members are available to talk to students, teachers or parents about the fair. Give us a call or drop us an email. We are here to help.

We usually have an open house meeting in the fall. Check our website for more information. You can also find all the dates for the upcoming fair as well as forms used to enter the fair.

Students are divided into three divisions: an Elementary Division for grades three to five, a Junior Division for grades six through eight, and a Senior Division for grades nine to twelve. The Senior Division Grand Award winner receives an all expense paid trip to compete in ISEF in May of that year. In past years our Grand Award Winners have received a variety of prizes and acknowledgements, for example the 2006 grand award winner, Rohith Chandrasekar, received the First Place Award from the American Vacuum Society for his project, *Design of An Aerodynamically-Enhanced Plasma for Synthesis of Nanoparticles*, in Phoenix, AZ. The 2004 grand award winner, Laura Wong, was awarded a trip to the London International Youth Science Forum by the U.S. Army. She also placed 2nd in the ISEF Computer Science division with her project, *Fault Tolerant Behavior-Based Robots*.

David Sharples of East Windsor was named one of "The Final Forty" in the 2004 Discovery Channel Young Scientist Challenge (DCYSC) competition with his project: *A Study of Resonance*. David, a 7th grader at Chapin School in Princeton, NJ, spent a week in Washington, D.C. for the final competition. Elizabeth Rory Nachbar is a 2005 semi-finalist with her project: *Can You Power a Light Bulb with Other Fruits Besides a Potato, and When the Energy Runs Out, Can You Recharge It with Solar Energy?* Nicholas Stewart was chosen to compete in Disney's Iron Man 3 Inventor and Innovator Fair in 2013.

Please let your students, parents and teachers know about the fair. We look forward to seeing your students at the fair.

Thank you.

Information contact

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