



Mercer Science and Engineering Fair

Mercer Science and Engineering Club

3 Creek Rim Drive
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www.mercersec.org



Dear Teachers,

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 and their parents know about the fair. We have a hand-out for students you can use or you just direct them to our website. It has all the information they need to join the competition.

You can help students with their projects if you are interested but the competition is for individuals and students can enter on their own. 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. There are many students who do not know that they can present their scientific and engineering projects outside of school.

Mercer Science and Engineering Club members are available to talk to with you or your students and their parents about the fair. We usually have an open house meeting in the fall to answer questions about the fair. Check our website for more information. You can find all the dates for the upcoming fair as well as forms used to enter the fair. We can work with you if your schools holds its own science fair too.

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.

We look forward to seeing your students at the fair.

Thank you.

Information contact

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