



NEIRSEF Notes

Northeast Indiana Regional Science and Engineering Fair
www.ipfw.edu/scifair

• May 2008

Letter from the Director

Dear Fair Coordinators and Teachers,

As the end of another school year approaches, I would like to extend sincere appreciation to each of you for working with students who participate in the Science and Engineering Fair at the local and regional level. Teachers are the key to this program because you are out there "in the trenches" with the students inspiring them to pursue worthy areas of study, guiding them through the research process, overseeing paper work and/or registration and recognizing their success within your school. It takes so much time, patience, and organization to make this happen each year and all of us on the Regional Fair Committee applaud you for your work!

Is there a need for change?

Many of you or your parents send emails or talk to me and offer outstanding suggestions or important concerns about the Regional Fair. Thank you for these comments! Every idea and email is taken to our committee for discussion. Each year, we have tried to incorporate something new to improve the Fair. Change is not always easy and often involves complex considerations that are not visible as you observe the Fair. However, I believe that often change is critical in order to create a positive experience for the students while still maintaining a quality Regional Fair. The 2008 Regional Fair incorporated five changes which are listed in the box on the right.

2009 Middle School Forms: Reduced Paperwork!

This summer we will be reviewing the ISEF forms used at the middle school level and determining which forms to retain and how to consolidate others. The Indiana State Fair has now reduced its use of ISEF forms at the junior level and many other regions have reduced their use as well, so the NEIRSEF committee is also considering making changes. Our goal is to make the paperwork for pre-experimentation review more user friendly for teachers and streamline the forms required for all junior division participants. You can look for these changes to be announced in the fall.

Thank you, again, for your dedication! Each of us at IPFW on the Regional Science and Engineering Fair Committee send you and your students congratulations for many excellent achievements this past year and we look forward to working with you for the 2009 Fair season.

Carol Dostal
NEIRSEF Director

Changes implemented at the 2008 Regional Fair

- ◆ **Linked on-line forms** between junior/senior level pre-review eligibility questionnaire and registration for quicker registration
- ◆ **Created a drop-down research category menu for elementary registration** to ensure that Special Award judges see each student with a project in their designated award category
- ◆ **Ongoing website improvements** to make certain that all needed information is easy to retrieve including schedule, display rules, and teacher letter clearly visible from the homepage
- ◆ **Shortened the Fair Day by one hour** which was started in 2007. We had moved set-up to begin a half hour later in the morning and the award ceremonies are a half hour earlier in the afternoon and we will continue to work on this
- ◆ **New score sheet for junior/senior judges** (piloted this year) to foster quicker and more consistent judging (next year we will be using a new elementary score sheet). While each change seems small, they often take "behind the scenes" time and effort from volunteers and staff working on many other projects as well. We thank each of our dedicated volunteers!





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Congratulations State Science and Engineering Fair Winners!

On Saturday, April 5, eight students from our region competed in the Hoosier State Science and Engineering Fair at DePauw University. They are:

Junior Division Representatives

Jodie Goodman & Emily Tallo, Canterbury; **Kristine Morr**, St. Vincent de Paul

Senior Division Representatives

Zachary Jones, Whitko; **Rafid Mustafa**, Carroll; **Ronnye Rutledge**, August Steigmeyer, & **Sirisha Tummala**, Canterbury.

All students at the State Fair received a medallion and a pin for participating. We applaud their efforts and congratulate them on their accomplishments. In addition, the following State Fair awards were given:

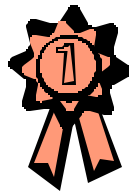
Rafid Mustafa-Finalist Div-Placement -Life Sciences-2nd Place, medal, ribbon, \$35; 2nd place-Best Clinical Microbiology Project, \$25 and certificate

Ronnye Rutledge-Best Pharmacy Related Project Cert & \$100; United States Army Outstanding Science Research Award Certificate, \$50 bond & Gift; Best exhibit in plant or animal in vitro biology/tissue culture, Certificate

Sirisha Tummala-\$2000 scholarship to DePauw University

Junior Division

Jodie Goodman-Junior Div-Life Sciences-1st Place, ribbon, medal & \$50; 1st Place Excellent Use of Stats, certificate & \$200



Kristine Morr-2nd Place, Best Engineering Related Project by a Female, banquet invitation and cash award

Emily Tallo-Association for Women Geoscientist, Certificate

Two students, **Rafid Mustafa** from Carroll High School and **August J Steigmeyer** from Canterbury High School were selected at the Regional Fair to advance to the International Fair in Atlanta, GA held on May 11-16

For a complete listing of 3/15/08 Regional Fair results go to www.ipfw.edu/scifair

NEIRSEF Contact Information

Carol Dostal, NEIRSEF Director

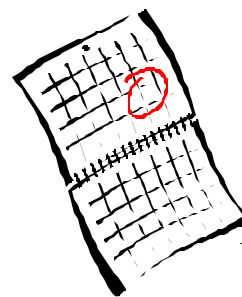
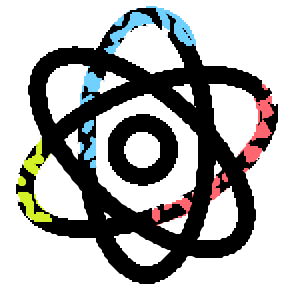
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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

*The 2009
Northeast Indiana Regional
Science and Engineering Fair
will be held on
Saturday, March 21, 2009
at IPFW Gates Sports Center*

www.ipfw.edu/scifair