



September 22, 2014

Dear Principal and/or Affiliated Educator:

We invite your outstanding students to be honored for their original research at the 60th Northeast Indiana Regional Science and Engineering Fair (NEIRSEF) hosted by Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne (IPFW). The Regional Fair committee, judges, and sponsors look forward to meeting and rewarding many of the students with a variety of awards. **Please note important Regional Fair news below:**

Earlier Date for the Northeast Indiana Regional Science and Engineering Fair: March 7, 2015

SEFI (Science Education Foundation of Indiana) moved the Hoosier (Indiana State) Science and Engineering Fair to March 21 which required a change in the date of the Regional Fair. **The required date change has resulted in important alterations:**

- ***The Fair venue changed from the Athletics Center Field House to IPFW Walb Student Union and International Ballroom***
*The IPFW Athletics Center Field House is not available on March 7 so the Regional Fair will be held in two locations: IPFW Walb Student Union Ballroom and the International Ballroom. **These are smaller venues which required a reduction in grade levels and the number of student projects advancing to the Fair.** *See details below about advancement and on the reverse side of this letter in FAQ #2.*
- ***Earlier Regional Fair Registration Deadline***
*The deadline date for registering your advancing students to attend the Regional Fair is February 20, 2015. **Since this date is earlier, your school may have to hold their fair on an earlier date also if you intend to advance students to the Regional Fair.***

Other Important Fair Changes

Junior Division Redefined by Science Education Foundation of Indiana (SEFI): 4th – 8th Grade

The Regional Fair Junior Division has typically been comprised of middle school students in 6th-8th grades. Several years ago, SEFI redefined the Junior Division at the Hoosier State Fair to include the 4th and 5th grades. This year, the NE Indiana Regional Fair will also include 4th and 5th grades into the Junior Division to fully align with the Hoosier State Fair.

IMPORTANT Change in Grade Levels Advancing to the Northeast Indiana Regional Science and Engineering Fair

Only students from 4th grade through 12th grade will advance to the 2015 Regional Fair. In other words, **the Regional Fair will not include an elementary division with kindergarten through third grade this year.** We understand that this is a break in tradition. The Regional Fair Committee made this difficult decision based on two factors: first, the smaller venues resulted in the need to reduce grade levels and the number of students who advance from each school; and second, the Regional Fair will now fully align with the Hoosier State Fair which includes only 4th-12th grade students.

IMPORTANT Change in Grade Levels Advancing to the Hoosier State Science and Engineering Fair: Good News!

Now that the Regional Fair will fully align with the State Fair, the first place students in both the 4th and 5th grades will be invited to advance with the other representatives from NEIRSEF to the Hoosier State Fair which takes place on March 21, 2015 in Indianapolis.

IMPORTANT Change in the Project Pre- Experimentation Review Process for the Junior Division: schools may welcome this change!

The Regional Fair always required 6th-8th grade students to submit their research plans to the Regional SRC (Scientific Review Committee) for review BEFORE the start of experimentation if the projects involved **human participants and animals**. This review was to ensure proper safety and ethical procedures were planned for the experiment. **At the senior division level this is still a requirement. However, to further align with the State Fair, schools with students in the Regional Fair Junior Division will now be responsible to establish a review process that ensures students follow appropriate human participant and animal research protocol.** The Regional Fair will provide teachers with recommended guidelines for this type of research and is still available for advice if contacted by a teacher. As in the past, ALL students advancing to the fair will still be required to submit their project information into the SEFI website during the Regional Fair registration process by the February 20 deadline. All projects for students attending the Regional Fair will be reviewed at that time to assure that they used appropriate procedures allowing them to be eligible for awards and advancement.

Thank you for sharing this important information with appropriate fair coordinators and staff at your school. Additional information will be provided to affiliated teachers in the near future. We look forward to serving your school and students by offering the 2015 Regional Science and Engineering Fair.

Sincerely,

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Educator Commonly Asked Questions

Q: When is the Regional fair and who can participate?

The Northeast Indiana Regional Fair is Saturday, March 7, 2015 at IPFW Walb Student Union and the International Ballroom. The fair is open to 4th grade through 12th grade ONLY this year. The Regional Fair welcomes students from public, private, parochial, and home schools in an eight county area: Adams, Allen, Huntington, Kosciusko, Miami, Wabash, Wells, and Whitley.

Q: How many regional fair entries can a school have?

NEW Junior Division (grades 4th-8th): We encourage schools to send one student from each allowable grade.

Elementary schools with grades K-5: 2 entries representing 4th & 5th grades

Elementary schools with grades K-6: 3 entries representing 4th, 5th, & 6th grades

Middle schools with grades 6-8: 3 entries representing each grade

Jr/Senior High Schools with grades 7-12: 2 entries for 7th and 8th grades; 5 senior division entries

High Schools with grades 9-12: 5 senior division entries

**Team projects (2- 3 members) are counted as one entry*

Q: How much does it cost to enter the fair?

There is a \$10 entry fee for each project (NOT student). **Team projects count as one project.*

Q: Where do we send the registration fee?

Please indicate your school, the names of the registrants and their grades with your payment. Check or money order made payable to IPFW (cash cannot be accepted). Mail payment before March 4th deadline to: IPFW, Science Fair Program Asst. 2101 E. Coliseum Blvd. ET 243, Fort Wayne, IN 46805

Q: Who is the Science Education Foundation of Indiana (SEFI)

SEFI is the state organization under which all Indiana Regional Science & Engineering Fairs operate. SEFI provides the funding for the Hoosier State Fair and the Finalists that advance to attend the International Science and Engineering Fair. SEFI also hosts statewide teacher and project registration for all regional fairs on their website.

Q: Where does a teacher register themselves to get information for the fair?

All teachers go to the **Science Education Foundation of Indiana (SEFI)** website www.sefireg.org to enter their contact and school information which is used for fair communication, to register students for the regional fair, and for students in grades 4-12 to enter their project information. If you are new to SEFI, a password will be emailed to you after you complete the Teacher Registration. If you had registered at the SEFI website previously, you can re-activate your account using the same email and password. Call Caryl at 260-481-5756 if you need assistance.

Q: What grades may advance beyond the regional fair?

Up to 10-Junior and 10-Senior division projects may be chosen to advance to the Hoosier Science and Engineering Fair (HSEF) from the Regional Fair. Senior Division students are eligible to advance from the Hoosier Fair to the International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF).

Q: Are there any restrictions on the types of projects students in grades 4-8 (new Jr division) can do for the Regional Fair?

According to SEFI guidelines, students in grades 4-8 should **not** be doing bacterial studies of any kind and should **not** be using hazardous chemicals, devices, and/or activities.

Q: How can we make sure projects for students in grades 9th-12th are eligible for the regional fair?

Most projects done in Senior high school are eligible but projects that involve **human participants, or animals, or potentially hazardous biological agents** (such as bacteria, tissue, body fluid, and yeasts) need to be reviewed and approved by the Regional Fair Scientific Review Committee (SRC) at IPFW **before the experiment is started**, to make sure the proper method and procedures are followed for every one's safety. This step is called Pre-Experimentation Review. Procedures for submitting project information to IPFW for review can be found on the NEIRSEF website www.ipfw.edu/scifair