



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2007 California State Science Fair Winners Announced

Students, Parents and Teachers Gather to Hear the Results

Los Angeles – Winners of the 2007 California State Science Fair were announced during ceremonies that took place May 22, 2007 at the California Science Center. This year's fair drew 969 students from 35 counties statewide, with finalists selected by a volunteer pool of over 300 scientists and engineers from private industry and higher education. Students took home a combined total of over \$50,000 in cash prizes provided by the California Science Center Foundation.

Top Awards

Alexandra M. Courtis, a 12th grade student at Davis Senior High School in Davis (Yolo County) was selected for the Patricia Beckman Project of the Year—Senior Division and received a \$10,000 cash prize. Her project was titled "Bright, Luminescent Silicon Nanoparticles for Biological Applications." **Michael A. Iorga**, an 8th grade student from Sycamore Canyon School, Newbury Park (Ventura County) was chosen for the Patricia Beckman Project of the Year—Junior Division award and received a \$5,000 cash prize. His project was titled "Laser Cooling and Trapping of Rubidium-87 Atoms Using MOL." Two special committees, one for each division, reviewed all first place, winning projects from every subject category in order to select the best project in each division. The awards are given in honor of Dr. and Mrs. Arnold O. Beckman.

Vinay Tripuraneni, a senior at Clovis West High School in Fresno was named California State Science Fair Student of the Year and was presented with a \$1,000 cash prize. His project entry was titled "Systems Genetics of the Hippocampus: A cis-QTL for Tmem19 on Chromosome 10 May Modulate Hippocampal Size and Function." This award is presented to the high school senior who, in the opinion of the judges, best exemplifies the qualities necessary for success in science.

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Eric Kielich, a teacher at Mount Tamalpais in Mill Valley (Marin County) was named California State Science Fair Teacher of the Year—Junior Division, and **Carol Evans**, a teacher at Oak Grove High School in San Jose (Santa Clara County) was named California State Science Fair Teacher of the Year—Senior Division. Each received a \$2,000 cash prize.

Jeffrey N. Rudolph, President and CEO of the California Science Center, commented “So much of the study of science is spent memorizing facts, which is not fun. When students can experiment and explore by creating their own projects, they’re doing what science is all about and they love it.” The Science Center’s involvement with the annual event dates back more than 40 years and is in keeping with its efforts to stimulate and nurture public interest in science, math and technology.

In addition to the top awards, 254 students placed 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and Honorable Mention in the Category Awards. A complete list of Category Award winners as well as information on recipients of Special and Recognition awards can be viewed at www.californiasciencecenter.org/CSSF/. Reporters may also call the Science Center’s Communications Department at (213) 744-7446 for winners from their area.

California Science Center is located at 700 State Drive in Exposition Park, Los Angeles. Open daily from 10am to 5 pm, except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year’s Day. Admission to the exhibits is free. IMAX Theater tickets range from \$4.75 to \$8.00. Both the Science Center and IMAX Theater are wheelchair accessible. Visitors can enter the parking lot at 39th/Exposition Park Drive and Figueroa Street. Parking is \$6/car. For general information, phone (323) SCIENCE or visit www.californiasciencecenter.org.

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