



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 29, 2008

Contact: Shell Amega
(213) 744-7446

Winners of 2008 California State Science Fair Announced

Two-Day Event Concludes with Awards Ceremony

LOS ANGELES – Winners of the 2008 California State Science Fair were announced among a cheering audience of students, parents and teachers during an awards ceremony hosted by the California Science Center on May 20, 2008 at the Los Angeles Sports Arena. The fair drew more than 950 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 \$60,000 in cash prizes. The Northrop Grumman Foundation was the Presenting Benefactor of the 2008 California State Science Fair, providing essential funding for this year's event, with additional support from THE MUSES and ITT Corporation.

Top Awards

Sarah Waliany, an 11th grade student at Flintridge Preparatory School in La Canada Flintridge (Los Angeles County) was selected for the Dr. & Mrs. Arnold O. Beckman Project of the Year—Senior Division and received a \$10,000 cash prize. Her project was titled “Transformation of Herceptin-Sensitive Breast Tumor Cells into Resistant Cells by P13K/Akt Pathway Activated by t-Darpp.” **Shyamal Buch**, a 7th grade student from Folsom Middle School in Folsom (Sacramento County) was chosen for the Dr. & Mrs. Arnold O. Beckman Project of the Year—Junior Division award and received a \$5,000 cash prize. His project was titled “Live Green or Dye Hard: Analysis of Nanocrystal Dye-sensitized Solar Cells using New Low-Cost Robotic D-SCOPE”. 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.

Stephanie Lin, a senior at Northwood High School in Irvine (Orange County) was named California State Science Fair Student of the Year and was presented with a \$1,000 cash prize. Her project entry was titled “Mechanism by which Methoprene Accelerates Behavioral Development in Honey Bees, *Apis mellifera*”. 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.

--more--

2008 California State Science Fair Results

Toni Stolo, a teacher at St. Cyril of Jerusalem in Encino (Los Angeles County) was named California State Science Fair Teacher of the Year — Junior Division, and **Amanda Alonzo**, a teacher at Lynbrook 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 , California Science Center, commented, “The fair helps students learn that they can be scientists and that it can be fun and satisfying to exercise their creativity, intellect and curiosity.” The Science Center’s involvement with the annual event dates back more than 50 years and is part of its mission to stimulate and nurture public interest in science, math and technology.

Special Recognition Awards

- **Xuanji Wang** of Los Angeles County received the **Silicon Boule Award**. Representative of today’s high technology, the Silicon Boule Award, which uniquely acknowledges distinctive performance in the physical sciences, is the end piece of an ultra-pure monocrystalline silicon boule.

Information on other Special Recognition Awards, as well as the complete list of subject category award winners, 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.

#