



MathScience Innovation Center

Imagine. Create. Lead.

Contact: Robin Newton
Tel. (804) 343-6525 Ext. 227
Email: rnewton@msinnovation.info

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 20, 2009

Metro Richmond Science Fair Students Compete at the Virginia State Science & Engineering Fair

Top winners from this year's Metro Richmond Science Fair went to George Mason University in Fairfax, 10 April, to compete in the Virginia State Science & Engineering Fair. They came away with seven trophies and nine Special Awards.

The Metro Richmond Science Fair was held at Powhatan High School on Saturday, March 21, 2009. First and Second Place winners in the Senior Division were offered the opportunity to advance to VSSEF, which is held the first Saturday of April. Both fairs are affiliated with the Intel International Science & Engineering Fair and send two winners each to compete at the international fair for over \$4 million dollars in prizes, trips and scholarships.

Eighteen students, plus one team of three, traveled to Fairfax on April 3rd and 4th to compete against the best science, math & engineering students in the Commonwealth. The students set up their projects on Friday evening and returned on Saturday morning to meet with the judges. The Awards Presentation was on Saturday evening.

One Richmond area student, **Amanda Schanz** from the Math & Science High School at Clover Hill in Chesterfield County, was awarded a First Place in Plant Science. This qualified her for a second round of judging and made her eligible for one of the two trips to the Intel ISEF.

Two local students were chosen as the Second Place winner in their categories. **Vijay Govindarajan**, from the Center for Science, Mathematics and Technology at Godwin High School in Henrico County won Second Place for his work in Chemistry. **Mukarram Ahmad**, from the Math & Science High School at Clover Hill, won Second Place in the Materials Science & Bioengineering category.

Suraj Mishra, from the Center for Science, Mathematics and Technology at Godwin High School, won a Third Place trophy in Cellular & Molecular Biology. Three other students won Honorable Mention awards in their categories: **Andrew Shore** from the Math & Science High School at Clover Hill (Animal Science), **Margaret Chi** from the Math & Science High School at Clover Hill (Cellular & Molecular Biology), and **Anthony Hennig** from Maggie Walker Governor's School (Earth & Planetary Science).

Two students from northern Virginia were chosen to represent VSSEF at the Intel International Science & Engineering Fair.

The Richmond area students attending VSSEF received a total of nine Special Awards given by various organizations for projects in specific areas. **Suraj Mishra** was chosen as the top winner by the Virginia Dental Association. In winning the Bennett Malbon Award, Suraj received a check for \$1,500.

As one of the winners of the VSSEF Stockholm Junior Water Prize, **Amanda Schanz** registered her project with the national competition. In late April, Amanda was selected as the Virginia winner of the Water Environment Federation's Stockholm Junior Water Prize. She and her teacher will travel to Alaska in June to compete for the national title. The winner of the national competition wins the opportunity to compete for the international title in Stockholm, Sweden.

The following awards were presented:

SAIC

Honorable Mention for Computational Sciences

Thomas Delgado, Math & Science High School at Clover Hill

Honorable Mention for Methods for Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction

Shanna Su, Center for Science, Mathematics & Technology at Godwin High School

Society of Manufacturing Engineers

Second Place Award

Mukarram Ahmad, Mathematics and Science High School at Clover Hill

The Virginia Section of the American Water Works Association

First Prize

Christopher Castillo, Godwin High School

Virginia Dental Association

Cellular and Molecular Biology Award

Suraj Mishra, Mills E. Godwin High School

Engineering: Materials and Bioengineering Award

Mukarram Ahmad, Mathematics and Science High School at Clover Hill

Environmental Sciences Award

Christopher Castillo, Godwin High School

Bennett Malbon Award (\$1500)

Suraj Mishra, Mills E. Godwin High School

Water Environment Federation

Stockholm Junior Water Prize

Amanda Schanz Math and Science High School at Clover Hill

Suraj Mishra was chosen as the top winner by the Virginia Dental Association. In winning the Bennett Malbon Award, Suraj received a check for \$1500.