

To all SCIENCE & MATHEMATICS TEACHERS in Atoka, Choctaw, Haskell, Latimer, LeFlore, McCurtain, Pittsburg, and Pushmataha Counties in Oklahoma:

The Eastern Oklahoma Regional Science & Engineering Fair (EORSEF) will be held on the EOSC Campus on February 16-17, 2012. The winner(s) of the EORSEF will be awarded an all-expense paid trip to the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) to present their project. The 2012 ISEF is scheduled for May 13-18, 2012 in Pittsburgh, PA. Student winners at the ISEF share in over one million dollars worth of prizes, including several four-year full tuition scholarships. Information is at the ISEF web site: <http://www.societyforscience.org/isef>, and then click on the ISEF link "Participate".

Even if your students do not win the trip to Los Angeles, they could win any of a number of other awards and cash prizes to be presented, including the opportunity to exhibit and compete at the Oklahoma State Science & Engineering Fair (OSSEF), which is held March 8-10, 2012 at ECU in Ada. We may certify a maximum of twenty-five (25) projects for the OSSEF competition. Students from the EORSEF did very well at the OSSEF last March, with projects placing in division categories and/or winning special awards. Congratulations to these students and their sponsors. The OSSEF web site is: <http://ossef.ecok.edu/>.

A responsible adult, preferably a teacher at their school, must sponsor exhibitors. All students in grades 7-12 are eligible and are encouraged to enter. They do not have to compete in any other fair to "qualify" for the EORSEF. Unfortunately, we do not have funding for an elementary student science fair competition.

Please consider helping develop student interest in science and mathematics outside the classroom. Now is the time to encourage your students to begin a science or mathematics project that may launch them on a career. If you are not directly involved in science or mathematics education, please pass this information on to the appropriate person. As a teacher, you know that science projects are an excellent hands-on tool for teaching the scientific method, laboratory safety, library research, and the proper reporting of experimental results. Science fairs allow students to exhibit the results of their independent research in a competitive setting, whether at the local school, county, or regional level. Outstanding projects at the regional level may qualify for competition at the OSSEF or ISEF. The most competitive projects are based on original, experimental work utilizing the scientific method, as opposed to demonstrations or "cook-book" type experiments from laboratory manuals. Projects selected for OSSEF are those that category judges feel have special merit and would be competitive, but category winners do not automatically qualify.

The EORSEF is affiliated with Society for Science & the Public, which conducts the ISEF. As a result of our affiliation, we are eligible to take up to two individual projects and one team project to the ISEF. However, we have very limited funding, and due to the high costs of travel and housing we may only be able to take one project that is

judged to be highly competitive. Our affiliation contract with Science Service requires a minimum of five high schools or fifty students in the senior high division (grades 9-12). It will take the efforts of each of us to insure that future students have the opportunity to compete for the trip to the ISEF and the many awards provided through ISEF.

Additional information regarding rules, categories of competition, and schedules are on additional pages. If there are any questions, or if I may help in any way please contact me. Our web site is at www.eosc.edu/academic/science_div.

Sincerely,

David Juarez, Director

Eastern Oklahoma Regional Science & Engineering Fair

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