



News Release

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61st Annual State Science Day Awards Rise to \$4.6 Million in Prizes/Scholarships for STEM Scholars

The Ohio State University Office of Continuing Education (CEd) Hosted the Event

COLUMBUS, Ohio, May 14 — On Saturday, May 9, 2009, over 1,100 seventh–12th-grade science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) students representing 287 schools from 67 counties across Ohio exhibited their science research projects at the 61st annual **State Science Day**. Held at The Ohio State University's French Field House, 460 Woody Hayes Drive, and St. John Arena, 410 Woody Hayes Drive, in Columbus, the event honored students with nearly 100 scholarships and awards valued at more than \$4.6 million.

"**State Science Day** is the final competition in Ohio's largest and most influential STEM education program. Attending State Science Day is a significant event in the academic life of these young students," says Lynn Elfner (43212), chief executive officer of The Ohio Academy of Science.

"**State Science Day** prepares students for success in college and in the 21st century workplace through project-based, real world learning."

Since 1949 **State Science Day** has helped more than 55,000 students develop effective skill sets for creativity and innovation, critical thinking and problem solving, and communication and collaboration.

Sponsored by The Ohio Academy of Science, American Electric Power, The Ohio Environmental Education Fund, and Boehringer Ingelheim Roxane, Inc., and hosted by The Ohio State University Office of Continuing Education (CEd), **State Science Day** is the academic equivalent of a state athletic championship. Judges evaluate students on originality and creativity, use of scientific method, clarity of expression, and knowledge achieved.

Among the many awards at **State Science Day** are Governor's Awards for Excellence in Student Research in agriculture and food science, biotechnology, environmental science, information science and technology, manufacturing sciences, materials science, and water resources research.

Students in grades 7–12 are eligible to compete in **State Science Day**. At the 2009 event, nine students received special plaques for participating in **State Science Day** for their fifth time. Those students were: Rowan L. Baird of Paint Valley High School (Bainbridge, 45612), Michael J. Giles of Choffin Career & Technical Center Vocational School (Youngstown, 44503), Kathleen M. Hurley of Fairfield Union High School (Lancaster, 43130), Jayma M. Leavengood of Ridgewood High School (West Lafayette, 43845), Rebecca K. McGrail of Catholic Central (Steubenville, 43952), Jessica L. McQuigg of Mount Vernon High School (Mount Vernon, 43050), Rebekah A. Meller of Pettisville High School (Pettisville, 43553), Rohit K. Nezhad of Springfield High School (Springfield, 45503), and Namratha Sandella of William Mason High School (Mason, 45040).

The two students who received the rare six-year awardee plaque for participating in **State Science Day** every year of their eligibility were: Laura S. Bailey of Piketon Junior/Senior High School (Piketon, 45661) and Jonathan R. Ungvarsky of Ohio Distance & Electronic Learning Academy (Akron, 44308).

Family members of the late Harold C. Shaw, a longtime science teacher and **State Science Day** judge from Eaton, were present to witness the attainment of the award named in his honor. The following schools received the Harold C. Shaw Memorial Outstanding School Award earned by schools that had at least four students who each received a superior rating or schools that had more than four projects with 80 percent of the students receiving a superior:

Bishop Flaget (Chillicothe, 45601)
Geneva Junior School (Geneva, 44041)
McNicholas (Cincinnati, 45230)
Ridgewood School (Springfield, 45504)
St. Columban (Loveland, 45104)
Turpin High School (Cincinnati, 45244)
William Mason High School (Mason, 45040)

For more information about **State Science Day** and the 2009 event results, including photos, visit statescienceday.osu.edu or call (614) 488-2228.

The Department of Conference Management in The Ohio State University Office of Continuing Education (CEd) specializes in providing meeting and conference management services — from pre-conference concept to post-conference follow-up — on a cost-effective basis to the university community as well as to private and public businesses and associations. For more information on CEd's Conference Management services, visit ced.osu.edu and click on "Conference Management," or call the Office of Continuing Education at (614) 292-8571.

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Editor's Note: Attached is a roster of students with home addresses for your reference. (**Please Note:** This report is in order by county and then school name.) The results (without home addresses) are also posted alphabetically by school at www.ohiosci.org/2009SSDReportforWeb.pdf For high resolution event photos suitable for printing, contact Latina A. D. Rockhold, CEd public relations/communications coordinator, at (614) 688-3310 or Rockhold.14@osu.edu or Lynn Elfner, The Ohio Academy of Science chief executive officer, at (614) 488-2228 or oas@iwaynet.net