

The OHIO ACADEMY of SCIENCE

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Ohio *STEM Scholars Head for National Scientific Meeting in Canada

For immediate release

Columbus (February 3, 2012) . . . Thirteen outstanding Ohio students will head for Vancouver, BC, Canada on February 15 to present their scientific research at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science on behalf of The Ohio Academy of Science. They will be named honorary *Fellows* of The American Junior Academy of Science (AJAS). The AJAS is the only US honor society recognizing America's premier high school students for outstanding scientific research.

Designated in Ohio as John H. and Ruth Melvin Memorial STEM Scholars, the students will meet their peers from 25 other states and interact with world-known scientists including Nobel Laureates to discuss their research on topics as wide-ranging as work related to the Hubble Space Telescope to nanotechnology.

“We’ve selected students for this program for more than 30 years,” said Lynn Elfner, the Academy’s director. “Many alumni continue to advance science, engineering and technology. Some are PhDs and MDs. One alumnus, Dave Roberts, a 1985 graduate of Westerville North high school, is a US Naval Academy graduate and now commands a nuclear submarine,” he continued. “Another, Aaron Iverson of Delaware, OH, is a Fulbright Scholar, now pursuing a PhD at The University of Michigan,” he noted.

“Many groups are jumping on the STEM bandwagon these days. We welcome their support for grassroots programs that change lives like the Melvin Memorial STEM Scholars that has a 30-year track record of producing outstanding STEM graduates,” said Elfner.

No Secret to Success

There is really no secret to the success of this STEM program according to the Academy. “Simply put, we prime the pump ‘early and often’ to accelerate student interest in STEM careers,” said Elfner.

The Academy says that as early as possible students need ample opportunities for inquiry-based learning that allows them to pursue topics of their choosing. Then they need mentors or research internships plus public recognition through awards, scholarships and involvement in professional meetings and societies.

About The Ohio Academy of Science

The Academy strives to be the leading professional organization in Ohio to *foster curiosity, discovery, and innovation* and to unite all who value education, science, engineering, technology, and their applications, to benefit society. See the Academy’s website at <http://www.ohiosci.org>

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Editor's Notes:

1. *STEM is Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
 2. Here is the roster of the 2012 Melvin Memorial STEM Scholars
 3. Email (or call 614.488.2228) oas@iwaynet.net for phone numbers or home addresses to interview students.
- Mr Timothy Beavers, South Point HS, South Point
 - Mr Spencer E Dirrig, Olentangy Hyatt MS, Powell
 - Ms Sarah C Forcier, Hathaway Brown School, Shaker Heights
 - Mr Himanshu Savardekar, Dublin Coffman HS, Dublin
 - Ms Mary Carrigan, Central Catholic HS, Toledo
 - Mr Sachin Rudraraju, Olentangy Liberty HS, Powell
 - Ms Shamanthika Shelkay, Hathaway Brown School, Shaker Heights
 - Ms Gurbani Kaur, Hathaway Brown School, Shaker Heights
 - Ms Allison Marie Siragusa, Beaumont School, Cleveland Heights
 - Mr Aman Kumar, Mason HS, Mason
 - Ms Clair C Ashmead, Hathaway Brown School, Shaker Heights
 - Ms Samantha Reeves, Hathaway Brown School, Shaker Heights
 - Ms Lauren C Thomas, Athens HS, Athens

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