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**Gainesville Students Win Regional National Science Bowl®  
Competition,  
Secure Spot in National Finals in Washington, D.C.**

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A team of middle school students from Gainesville, Florida won their regional competition for the 2017 National Science Bowl® (NSB) this past weekend and will advance to compete in the NSB National Finals this spring in Washington, D.C., the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced today.

“The National Science Bowl® continues to be one of the premier academic competitions across the country and prepares America's students for future successes in some of the world's fastest growing fields in science, technology, and engineering,” said Dr. J. Stephen Binkley, Acting Director of the Department's Office of Science, which sponsors the nationwide competition, now in its 27<sup>th</sup> year. “Each year the DOE Office of Science provides this unique opportunity, and I am honored to congratulate all the competitors who are advancing to the national finals, where they will continue to showcase their talents as top students in math and science.”

The NSB brings together thousands of middle and high school students from across the country to compete in a fast-paced question-and-answer format where they solve technical problems and answer questions on a range of science disciplines including biology, chemistry, Earth and space science, physics and math.

The team from your area that won their qualifying regional competition this past weekend and will be advancing to the National Finals is:

Abraham Lincoln Middle School, Gainesville, Florida

A series of 116 regional middle school and high school tournaments are being held across the country from January through March. Winners will advance to represent their areas at the National Science Bowl® held from April 27 to May 1 in Washington, D.C., for the final middle school and high school competitions.

The top 16 high school teams and the top 16 middle school teams in the National Finals will win \$1,000 for their schools' science departments. Prizes for the top two high school teams for the 2017 NSB will be announced at a later date.

The high school team that won the 2016 NSB received a nine-day, all-expenses-paid science trip to Alaska, where they learned more about glaciology, marine and avian biology, geology and plate tectonics. The second-place high school team at the 2016 NSB won a five-day, fully guided adventure tour of several national parks, which included a whitewater rafting trip.

Approximately 265,000 students have participated in the National Science Bowl® in its

26-year history, and it is one of the nation's largest science competitions. More than 14,000 students compete in the NSB each year.

DOE's Office of Science manages the NSB Finals competition. More information is available on the NSB website: <http://www.science.energy.gov/wdts/nsb/>.

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