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West Windsor-Plainsboro High School South and Princeton's Witherspoon School Win Top Prizes at Regional Science Bowls

Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory Hosts Competitions

March 05, 2010

Plainsboro, New Jersey — West Windsor-Plainsboro High School South and Witherspoon Middle School placed first at the regional Science Bowls® held February 27 and March 5 at the U.S. Department of Energy's Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory (PPPL).

Photo: Elle Starkman, PPPL



Holding their trophy and banner are the first-place regional high school Science Bowl winners, West Windsor-Plainsboro High School South Team A. From left are Kunal Desai, Satyajeeet Pal, Mark Benjamin (captain), Coach Brendan Field, Aniruddh Shivram, and Alexander Clifton. A background image of PPPL's National Spherical Torus Experiment fusion machine (interior) has been dropped in behind them.

The winning high school team was among 32 high school teams from 22 area schools; the first-place middle school team was among 16 teams from 15 schools. During the Jeopardy-like tournament in which all the categories are disciplines of science, competing teams were quizzed on biology, chemistry, physics, astronomy, earth science, general science, and mathematics. Each team was made up of four students, a student alternate, and a teacher who served as an advisor and coach.

Photo: Elle Starkman, PPPL

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West Windsor-Plainsboro High School South Team A members (from left) Kunal Desai, Mark Benjamin (captain), Alexander Clifton, and Satyajeeet Pal compete during the February 27 high school Science Bowl at the U.S. Department of Energy's Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory (PPPL). Brendan Field coached the team, which also includes Aniruddh Shivram.

Final Results of the high school regional competition (Saturday, February 27):

- 1st Place - West Windsor-Plainsboro High School South, Team A (West Windsor, N.J.)
- 2nd Place - East Brunswick High School (East Brunswick, N.J.)
- 3rd Place - Princeton High School (Princeton, N.J.)

Final Results of the middle school regional competition (Friday, March 5):

- 1st Place - Witherspoon Middle School, Team A (Princeton, N.J.)
- 2nd Place - Matawan-Aberdeen Middle School (Cliffwood, N.J.)
- 3rd Place - Community Middle School (Plainsboro, N.J.)

Photo: Elle Starkman, PPPL



The Witherspoon Middle School team from Princeton celebrates a first-place victory in the middle school Science Bowl March 5 at the U.S. Department of Energy's Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory. From left are Coach Tim Anderson, Jeremy Peterson, Alex Jin, Sabar Dasgupta, Rye Anderson, Enric Boix, and Assistant Coach Arlene Anderson.

Participating Schools for High School Science Bowl:

Bensalem High School, Bensalem, Penn.

Christian Brothers Academy, Lincroft, N.J.
 Council Rock High School-North, Newtown, Penn.
 East Brunswick High School, East Brunswick, N.J. (2 teams)
 High Technology High School, Lincroft, N.J. (2 teams)
 Highland Park High School, Highland Park, N.J.
 J.P. Stevens High School, Edison, N.J.
 Millburn High School, Millburn, N.J. (2 teams)
 Montgomery High School, Montgomery, N.J. (2 teams)
 Northern Valley Regional at Old Tappan High School, Old Tappan, N.J.
 Notre Dame High School, Lawrenceville, N.J.
 Old Bridge High School, Matawan, N.J.
 Princeton Day School, Princeton, N.J.
 Princeton High School, Princeton, N.J. (2 teams)
 St. Joseph High School, Metuchen/Edison, N.J. (2 teams)
 Sayreville War Memorial High School, Parlin, N.J. (2 teams)
 Stuart Country Day School, Princeton, N.J. (2 teams)
 Trenton Central High School, Trenton, N.J.
 Union City High School, Union City, N.J.
 Vernon Township High School, Vernon, N.J.
 West Windsor-Plainsboro High School South, West Windsor, N.J. (2 teams; Team A won first place)
 West Windsor-Plainsboro High School North, Plainsboro, N.J. (2 teams)

Participating Schools for Middle School Science Bowl:

B.C. Gregory School, Trenton, N.J.
 Burlington City Jr. School, Burlington, N.J.
 Christopher Columbus Elementary School, Trenton, N.J.
 Community Middle School, Plainsboro, N.J.
 Darul Arqam, South River, N.J.
 East Hanover Middle School, East Hanover, N.J.
 Fisher Middle School, Ewing, N.J.
 Glenfield Middle School, Montclair, N.J.
 Hedgepeth-Williams School, Trenton, N.J.
 John Witherspoon Middle School, Princeton, N.J. (2 teams)
 Matawan-Aberdeen Middle School, Cliffwood, N.J.
 Ramapo Ridge Middle School, Mahwah, N.J.
 Robbinsville Science Club, Robbinsville, N.J.
 Thomas Grover Middle School, West Windsor, N.J.
 Trenton Community Charter School, Trenton, N.J.

PPPL hosts one of 69 regional high school competitions and one of 38 regional middle school competitions, all of which are sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy. The top winners of the regional competitions receive all-expense paid trips to the National Science Bowl® scheduled for April 29-May 3 in Washington, D.C. PPPL Science Education Senior Program Leader James Morgan organized this year's competitions at PPPL.

PPPL, funded by the U.S. Department of Energy and managed by Princeton University, is a collaborative national center for science and innovation leading to an attractive fusion energy source. Fusion is the process that powers the sun and the stars. In the interior of stars, matter is converted into energy by the fusion, or joining, of the nuclei of light atoms to form heavier elements.

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