



NOBCChE Announces 2015 NOBCChE National Science Fair Winners

Orlando, Florida, October 25, 2015– Nicole O’Dell from Arabia Mountain High School, GA won first prize during the 2015 NOBCChE National Science Fair Senior Division (High School) September 25 at Renaissance Hotel at Sea World. High School students who won second and third place include Nicole Purnell (Middle Early College High School, NY) and Cierra James (Arabia Mountain High School, GA). Junior Division winners included Victoria Land (William Wirt Middle School, MD), Jo’Elle Copeland (LaVilla School of the Arts, FL), and Andrew Wilson (Greenbelt Middle School, MD) for first, second and third place respectively.



Senior Division 1st Place
Winner, Nicole O’Dell

“The exposure was truly broadening overall and, in time, I think it will prove to have specifically broadened their views on what’s possible for them. As chaperones, we too learned a great deal,” remarked Bridgette Heller from the South St. Petersburg Initiative.

Twenty-One students from elementary, middle and high schools across the country competed for the National NOBCChE Science Fair medals. Many of these students spent months preparing for this event, which featured projects across the physical sciences, math & engineering, consumer science, and biological sciences. The contestants had to qualify by submitting an abstract, create a trifold poster, submit a written report and answer questions from a variety of judges.

“I really enjoyed all the students that came from the different states, their teachers and their willingness to participate in the many activities,” recalled Priscilla Moore at NASA.

In addition to receiving medals, students were also eligible to receive the Twiggs-Seymore Award, Peoples’ Choice Award and Southeast Regional Excellence Award. Twiggs-Seymore Award winners included Nicole O’Dell, Kaitlyn Johnson (Kenilworth Science and Technology, LA), and Juwan Newkirk (Orange Center Elementary, FL) and they received certificates for their next year’s science fair supplies. New this year, NOBCChE launched the Peoples’ Choice (PC) Science Fair Awards with over 500 votes. The 2015 NOBCChE PC winners comprised of Cierra James, Kaithlyn Johnson, and Amariah Knowles (Orange Center Elementary, FL). Also, new this year NOBCChE highlighted Science Fair participants from hosting region (southeast). Southeast Regional Excellence Award winners comprised of Kaitlyn Johnson (Senior Division), Jo’Elle Copeland (Junior Division), George Paim (5th grader from Orange Center Elementary, FL).

National sponsors included NSF, ACS, The Air Force Technical Applications Center, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and the University of Pennsylvania. Volunteers came from various institutions including representatives from P&G, Dow Chemical Company, Spelman College, LSU, Tuskegee, Bethune-Cookman and Clark Atlanta University. Closing remarks during the Awards dinner were made from Dr. Judi Brown-Clarke from the BEACON Center for the Study of Evolution in Action.

The NOBCChE National Science Fair for many years has inspired students to excel in math, science, engineering fields. For more information about the NOBCChE K-12 Science Outreach initiatives, contact Steven Thomas, NOBCChE Secondary Education Committee Chair at 517-721-1519.
