



NOBCChE Announces Successful 2015 National STEM Weekend

Orlando, Florida, October 25, 2015– Last month the NOBCChE Secondary Education Committee had the pleasure of organizing another national event with more than 250 students from seven different states at the Annual NOBCChE STEM Weekend on September 25 at Renaissance Hotel at Sea World.

Kids from elementary, middle, and high schools across the country came to Orlando to compete for medals in the National NOBCChE Science Bowl and NOBCChE Science Fair. New this year, NOBCChE launched the Peoples' Choice (PC) NOBCChE Science Fair Awards with over 500 votes. In addition to the two national competitions, the NOBCChE STEM weekend also included a STEM Festival presentation by scientists, engineers and educators.

Exhibitors included University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, The Air Force Technical Applications Center U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, National Aeronautics and Space Administration National High Magnetic Field Laboratory, and Pretty On Purpose. Elementary, middle, and high school students, parents, and the general public were invited to explore science and learn about local and national STEM resources in the community and across the country. Dr. Samesha Barnes, McNair Director at the University of Florida gave opening remarks during the Kick-Off Breakfast on Friday September 25.



Students with STEM
Festival volunteers in
Orlando

Also included during the STEM weekend, were a College Scholarship panel, College Fair and College Student Panel. College Scholarship panelists included Dr. Charmane Caldwell (FAMU-FSU College of Engineering), Joy Titus-Young (American Chemical Society), and Michelle Jenkins (National Science Foundation) and they shared with the students and teachers strategies to identify and compete for national prestigious scholarships.

Dr. Caldwell commented, "part of the mission of the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering is to 'attract and graduate a greater number of minorities and women in professional engineering.'" She further explained to say, "as such, by participating in the NOBCChE STEM Weekend we were able to spark students' interest in engineering and had an opportunity to share some of the various scholarships each university offers."

National sponsors included NSF, ACS, The Air Force Technical Applications Center, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and the University of Pennsylvania. When asked about event, American Chemical Society CEO, Thomas Connelly enthusiastically mentioned that he was excited to help show young people that "science is challenging, but can be fun."

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.

NOBCChE has developed interactive partnerships over the past three decades with corporate, academic and government entities. Together we have expanded educational programs that help to build an inclusive scientific community. For more information about the NOBCChE K-12 Science Outreach initiatives, contact Steven Thomas, NOBCChE Secondary Education Committee Chair at 517-721-1519.
