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## **NOBCChE Announces Successful 2016 National STEM Weekend**

Raleigh, NC, December 1, 2016– Last month the NOBCChE Secondary Education Committee had the pleasure of organizing another national event with more than 170 participants from seven different states at the Annual NOBCChE STEM Weekend on November 9-12 at the Raleigh Convention Center.

Kids from middle, and high schools across the country came to Raleigh to compete for medals in the National NOBCChE Science Bowl and NOBCChE Science Fair. Starting in 2015, NOBCChE launched the Peoples' Choice (PC) NOBCChE Science Fair Awards with over 100 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 NC State University Colleges of Engineering and Science, Wake Technical Community College UNC's Morehead Planetarium and Science Center, NSF Center for Chemistry at the Space Time Limit (CaSTL) STEM For Kids, Mad Science and SMILE Camp. 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.

Also, included during the STEM weekend, a College Scholarship panel, College Fair and College Student Panel were provided. College Scholarship panelists included Dr. Monty Hickman (North Carolina Community College System Office) and Mr. Anthony Marcel Brooks (Shaw University). and they shared with the students and teachers strategies to identify and compete for national prestigious scholarships. After a year hiatus, NOBCChE brought back its Annual National Teachers Workshop Series this year. The workshops were designed to help participants hone their skills as transformational teachers.

National sponsors included NSF, ACS, The Air Force Technical Applications Center, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). Volunteers came from various institutions including representatives from P&G, Dow Chemical Company, Duke University, LSU, Tuskegee, Michigan State University, NSF, ACS and North Carolina A&T State University. Closing remarks during the Awards dinner were made from Dr. Kent Guion, Chief Diversity Director of the University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

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.

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