



# NEIRSEF Notes

Northeast Indiana Regional Science and Engineering Fair

May 2009

[www.ipfw.edu/scifair](http://www.ipfw.edu/scifair)

## Letter from Director

Dear Fair Educator,

As the school year comes to a close, the Regional Science and Engineering Fair Committee extends a huge thank you for your participation in the 2009 Fair "season"!

Your role in the fair cannot be measured in a simple way. The time and guidance you gave to your students on their research projects in preparation for your school fair or as they advanced to the Regional Fair is commendable. **You are the driving force behind the Science & Engineering Fair program in our region!**

The mission of the Regional Fair Committee has been to focus on a set of goals each year to improve the Regional Fair. In past years we have upgraded the Fair website, increased email contact with teachers, created helpful guides to understand Fair paperwork, provided additional personal support with a dedicated Fair Program Assistant, Caryl Spira, and improved the on-line forms. In this newsletter you will see additional changes incorporated into the Fair this year. As we approach each new idea, there are many considerations to make sure the proposed change works for everyone. This takes time and so we thank you for your patience with the ongoing effort to make our Regional Fair more progressive.

**Are there more changes to come? ABSOLUTELY! Several items under discussion for next year include:**

- The potential for an optional early display set up and inspection on the Friday before the Fair to shorten the students' time on Saturday.
- The possibility of releasing students after their first judging visit if their project is not eligible for any Special Awards or does not require a second judge visit. Secondary judge visits occur for various reasons including special award judging or questions that arise during the judge deliberation concerning a project. This could shorten the morning for some students.
- The suggestion to insert a "break" during judging for students to sit with parents during judge deliberation. This "break" would allow students to move around and have something to eat/drink.
- The idea of offering a fun, contest-type activity during the judging to occupy the students' energy and time while waiting at their displays.

We will explore these ideas and others during the summer and announce any changes next year. Please check the Fair website [www.ipfw.edu/scifair](http://www.ipfw.edu/scifair) and read all Fair newsletters or email updates in the Fall to keep informed about Fair changes. Our goal is to make the Fair an educational and enjoyable experience for all!

Once again, thank you for all your work and have a wonderful summer!

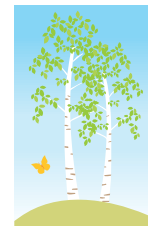
Carol Dostal  
NEIRSEF Director

## Good bye Dr. Parker

For the past 5 years, Dr. Trent Parker has served the NEIRSEF as the Scientific Review Committee Chair (SRC). He has been responsible for the approval of all grade 6-12 pre-review paperwork and post-review paperwork for those attending the fair. Dr. Parker will be joining the faculty at the University of Kentucky in July. **Any grade 6-12 projects that need pre-review done for the summer, the deadline to submit paperwork is June 24. THANK YOU** Dr. Parker for all the work you have done on behalf of the fair. We will miss you but wish you all the best!!!

## Changes implemented at the 2009 Regional Fair

- ◆ **Created streamlined regional forms** for junior level students including projects that required pre-experimentation review. These Adobe forms were able to be completed and saved on a computer.
- ◆ **New score sheets for elementary judges** to foster quicker and more consistent judging. These sheets followed the successful introduction of new score sheets for the junior/senior levels in 2008.
- ◆ **New rubrics for both elementary and junior/senior division level judges** for clearer, more consistent judging criteria.





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## Congratulations State Science and Engineering Fair Winners!

On Saturday, April 4, four students represented Northeast Indiana at the State Science & Engineering Fair held at Dow Agro-Sciences, Indianapolis. At the State Fair, the four participants received a medallion and a \$50 award in recognition of their success at the regional level.

### Junior Division Representatives

**Sarah Bellavance**, Canterbury, **David Ryker**, Canterbury, and **Sergio-Steven Cobos**, St. Jude School

### Senior Division Representative

**Rafid Mustafa**, Carroll High School

Junior division representatives also chosen but unable to attend were Isaiah Fisher, St. John the Baptist, New Haven, Peter Rumsey, Canterbury, and Jeremy Tatara, Woodside Middle School.

### Additional State Awards

*Sergio-Steven Cobos, St. Jude School*

- ◆ Junior Division Third Award  
Sponsored by the Science Education Foundation of Indiana; Plaque & \$25
- ◆ 2009 Ricoh Sustainable Development Award; Certificate of Achievement
- ◆ Purdue University College of Agriculture Junior Award; Certificate of Achievement & \$75
- ◆ US Navy Award for Excellence in Science Research-Junior; Certificate of Achievement & Medallion

*Rafid Mustafa, Carroll High School*

- ◆ Purdue University College of Agriculture Finalist Award; Certificate of Achievement & \$125
- ◆ Award for Excellence in Clinical Microbiology: Second Award; Sponsored by South Central Assoc for Clinical Microbiology; Certificate of Achievement & \$50

**Rafid Mustafa** was also selected as the Regional Fair Finalist to advance to the International Fair in Reno, Nevada.

For a complete list of awards from the Regional Fair visit  
[www.ipfw.edu/scifair](http://www.ipfw.edu/scifair)

For a complete list of awards from the Hoosier State Fair  
[www.sefi.org/hsef/HSEF2009AWARDS.pdf](http://www.sefi.org/hsef/HSEF2009AWARDS.pdf)



Science Education Foundation of Indiana, Inc. (SEFI) provides funding for the Hoosier State Fair and for Regional Fair Finalists to attend the INTEL International Science and Engineering Fair

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**Save the date!**  
Next year's regional  
fair will be held on  
**March 20, 2010**



Several winning students from the Regional Fair displayed their projects at the inaugural Sci-TEC Youth Showcase held at IPFW on April 18. This inaugural showcase was a community celebration of innovative educational and outreach achievements in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) subjects. This event featured students and teachers primarily from Allen county schools to showcase their work and to share ideas and successes with fellow educators. The Regional fair students who participated were Kathleen Simunek, Aboite; Cory Balkenbusch, Covington; Ashley & Jessica VandenBoom, Ossian; Isaiah Fisher, St. John the Baptist, New Haven; Sergio-Steven Cobos, St. Jude; Jeremy Tatara, Woodside; and Rafid Mustafa, Carroll High School.

For photos of the Sci-TEC Youth Showcase go to  
[www.etc.ipfw.edu/scitec](http://www.etc.ipfw.edu/scitec)