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TOP YOUNG IOWA SCIENTISTS COMPETE FOR PRESTIGIOUS HONORS AT THE 53<sup>rd</sup> STATE SCIENCE + TECHNOLOGY FAIR OF IOWA

TV Meteorologist, Megan Salois of Channel 13 News Set to Give Welcome Address

AMES, Iowa – The State Science + Technology Fair of Iowa is set to showcase some of Iowa’s best and brightest 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade students in the areas of science, engineering and technology. The fair will feature over 550 junior and senior high students and their research projects. Many of these students have already competed at local, conference and regional fairs and now look toward Ames where they will compete for over \$70,000 in scholarships and prizes.

The 53<sup>rd</sup> State Science + Technology Fair of Iowa will take place March 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> in Hilton Coliseum and the Scheman Center in Ames. Winners take home an unprecedented combined total of over \$70,000 in scholarships and prizes.

Prior to competing in the science fair students test their wings as real scientists by following scientific methodology for the duration of their research project. In their quest to win the judges’ attention, students also learn marketing skills, written and verbal presentation skills and poise under pressure as they present their findings during interviews with judges. The projects are judged by a volunteer pool of over 200 scientists and engineers from private industry and higher education.

Students compete in 15 subject-based categories from Animal Sciences, Biochemistry, Cellular and Molecular Biology to Earth & Space Sciences, Engineering, and Energy & Transportation. Some project titles include:

- A Combined Approach: Comparing Liquid Runway Deicer Performance Characteristics with their Impact on Aircraft Corrosion, Catalytic Oxidation, the Environment and the Economy
- Solar Energy Phase VII: Using the Greenhouse Effect for Heating
- Oops! The Food is on the Floor. Is it Good Anymore?
- Are “Wii” really exercising?
- Are you Shopping for Germs?

The Junior & Senior High projects will be on display to the public from 12 – 5 pm on Friday, March 26<sup>th</sup>. Junior High projects will be on display to the public from 9:30 am – 4 pm Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup>. Admission is free to view the projects, attend student seminar presentations and hear the welcome address by Channel 13's Megan Salois.

The public is invited to hear Megan Salois give the welcome address on Friday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at 11 AM in Hilton Coliseum. Meteorologist Megan Salois joined the Channel 13 First Alert Storm Team in April 2006. Megan has been granted her AMS Seal of Approval from the American Meteorological Society and is a member of the National Weather Association. You can see her on Channel 13's popular Today in Iowa Saturday and Sunday programs as well as Channel 13 News at Noon.

The fair culminates with an awards ceremony that takes place Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm in Hilton Coliseum. Over 500 awards will be given out at the award ceremony. The highest honor will go to the top two senior high individuals and the top senior high team who will receive all expense-paid trips to the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair, to be held May 9-15 in San Jose, California.

The fair is hosted by Iowa State University and sponsors include: Iowa Biotechnology Association, Iowa Department of Economic Development, Iowa Energy Center, Iowa Farm Bureau Federation Agricultural Foundation, Iowa Space Grant Consortium, Iowa State University College of Agriculture & Life Sciences, Iowa State University College of Engineering, Monsanto and the Pella Rolscreen Foundation.

Organizations providing scholarships include: Iowa Biotechnology Association, Iowa Energy Center, Iowa Space Grant Consortium, Iowa State University College of Agriculture & Life Sciences, The University of Iowa and Iowa State University Colleges of Engineering, Iowa State University College of Human Sciences, and the McNabb Family. In addition, there is a long list of organizations that provide volunteers, judges and special awards.

For a complete list of sponsors and awards, the schedule of events and more information regarding the fair please visit our website: [www.sciencefairfiowa.org](http://www.sciencefairfiowa.org)

**Editor/Producer Note:**

To access an Excel file of the list of students participating in this year's science fair, including their hometowns and the schools they attend, go to <http://www.sciencefairfiowa.org/Press.html>

**Media Preview:**

- What: Members of the media are invited to a photo/interview opportunity with over 550 junior and senior high students from schools throughout the state, on-hand to present their science projects for category recognition as well as over \$70,000 in scholarships and awards.

- When: Friday, March 26<sup>th</sup> -- 1:00 – 5:00 pm – as student projects are being judged
- Who: Jay Staker, Chair of the State Science + Technology Fair Board  
Megan Salois,  
550 junior and senior high finalists
- Where: Iowa State Center (Hilton Coliseum and Scheman), Ames, IA

Winners Info:

- We will not have winners' information until 4:00 PM Saturday afternoon. If you desire photos of the winning students please contact the Fair Director, Andrea Spencer at 515-460-5559 and you may be directed to our professional photographer.
- If you would like interviews with winners the ceremony will be concluded by 7:00 PM Saturday; winners can be interviewed on site or contact the fair director for winning student contact information.
- The complete list of the award winners will be posted on the site March 27<sup>th</sup> after 6:00 pm.