



October 1, 2011

Dear Sir/Madam:

The Tidewater Science Congress solicits your support for the 61st Annual Tidewater Science Fair, scheduled March-10, 2012 at Old Dominion University's Webb Center. Since 1951, the Tidewater Science and Engineering Fair has encouraged middle school and high school students from Williamsburg to Virginia Beach to become directly involved in the processes of research and to develop the technical writing skills needed to clearly and effectively communicate the results of their experiments. By encouraging students' interest in the STEM disciplines (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math), we hope to inspire and encourage them to study the "hard subjects" that will prepare them for careers as leaders of the workforce of the future.

The Tidewater Science Congress encourages and assists teachers and school districts in developing science fair programs that conform to protocols that ensure that Tidewater Science and Engineering Fair winners are eligible to advance from regional competition to the Virginia State Science and Engineering Fair and the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF). Representing their schools at regional, state, and national level competitions gives important public and peer recognition to students who focus their interests, talents, and efforts on STEM. Honors that these students earn in state and national competitions build the region's reputation as a place where parents can be confident that their children receive a quality education and businesses can be confident of finding a high quality workforce.

The Tidewater Science Congress does not receive public funding from local school districts. We rely entirely upon donations from interested individuals, businesses, and professional organizations to meet the expenses of the Tidewater Science and Engineering Fair. This broad-based community support allows us to open the Fair to all public school, private school, and home-schooled students from Williamsburg to Virginia Beach. This gives teachers and schools throughout the area an incentive to include science fairs and science projects in their curricula by assuring them that their students will have an opportunity to advance to higher levels of competition.

Please consider a personal or corporate contribution to help the Tidewater Science Congress continue a 61-year commitment to encouraging young people to develop their interests in STEM. We must raise approximately \$15,000.00 this year to cover expenses which include the costs of organizing and staging the fair in Norfolk and funding the Grand Prize winners' travel to Pittsburgh in May 2012 to compete in Intel International Science and Engineering Fair.

Funds donated to the Tidewater Science and Engineering Fair are accepted and administered by the Tidewater Science Congress, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization registered with the Internal Revenue Service (TIN: 52 1385891). The Tidewater Science Congress will provide receipts for your tax deductible contributions and will recognize you as a sponsor in the printed Science Fair Program and at our website <http://cs.odu.edu/~scifair/RegionalFair/index.html>.

Respectfully,

John R. Oakes  
Treasurer, Tidewater Science Congress

Melani Loney  
President, Tidewater Science Congress

## Contributions

The Tidewater Science Congress is eligible to receive tax-deductible charitable contributions. You can verify this status online by searching *Internal Revenue Service Publication 78, Cumulative List of Organizations described in Section 170(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986*. Point your browser to <http://www.irs.gov/app/pub-78/>. Our TIN is 52-1385891

Your contribution would be greatly appreciated. Your contribution will help to cover the cost of organizing and staging the 61st Tidewater Science Fair and funding Grand Prize Winners' travel to the 2012 Intel International Science and Engineering Fair. Any balance on hand after meeting these expenses will be carried forward to support the 62nd Tidewater Science Fair in 2013.

Please mail contributions to Tidewater Science Congress  
John Oakes, Treasurer  
5016 Churchill Court  
Virginia Beach, VA 23464

If you have any questions, please contact either  
John Oakes, Treasurer, Tidewater Science Congress by e-mail addressed to  
[john.r.oakes@cox.net](mailto:john.r.oakes@cox.net) or by phone at (757) 748-8560

OR

Ms. Dell Young, Executive Director, Tidewater Science Congress, by email addressed to  
[dellandlarry@verizon.net](mailto:dellandlarry@verizon.net) or by phone at 757-460-2863

Levels of Sponsorship: **Bronze:** \$1 to \$250  
**Silver:** \$251 to \$1,000  
**Gold:** \$1001 to \$ 4,999  
**Platinum:** \$5,000+

We ask you to provide the information requested below and include this form with your donation. We will use this information to prepare a proper receipt for your donation, to recognize your sponsorship at our website and in the Tidewater Science and Engineering Fair, and to maintain donor records required to maintain our status as a tax-exempt charitable organization.

Amount of Donation \_\_\_\_\_

Company/Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Point of Contact \_\_\_\_\_

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Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

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e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_



## Tidewater Science & Engineering Fair Facts

The Tidewater Science and Engineering Fair is open to all home-schooled, private school, and public school students from seven counties (Accomack, Gloucester, Isle of Wight, James City, Northampton, Southampton, and York) and ten cities (Chesapeake, Franklin, Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk, Poquoson, Portsmouth, Suffolk, Virginia Beach and Williamsburg) from Williamsburg to Virginia Beach.

High school students may qualify for advancement to state level completion at the Virginia State Science and Engineering Fair (VSSEF) and national level competition at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair. Middle school participation is a discriminator that sets the Tidewater Science and Engineering Fair apart from most regional science fairs. Nationwide, most regional fairs limit participation to high school students who can advance to state and national level competitions. To encourage middle school students to develop an early interest in STEM subjects, Tidewater Science offers them opportunity to participate in a regional science fair and to advance to a higher level of competition, the Broadcom MASTERS **competition**.

Participation in the Fair has grown from four public school districts and a total of 114 projects in 2004 to more than 600 projects nominated for entry in 2011 by teachers from 10 public school districts and three private schools. Physical limitations of the display space limited the number of projects that could be accepted. A Selection Committee reviewed the written documentation submitted with each nomination to select 249 individual and team projects displayed and judged at the 2011 Fair.

The 278 students whose 249 individual and team projects were displayed and judged represented 16 high schools and 20 middle schools from:

- ❖ Ten (10) public school districts (225 **projects**)
  - Chesapeake, Gloucester County, Hampton, Isle of Wight, Newport News, Poquoson, Portsmouth, Suffolk, Virginia Beach, York County
- ❖ Three private schools (23 projects)
  - Christ the King, Norfolk Christian Middle School, and Trinity Lutheran School
- ❖ One home schooled student.

### Tidewater Students Honors Won in State and National Level Competitions

Fifteen 2011 Junior Division Projects qualified for the BROADCOM Masters competition. Two advanced to the semi-finals:

Rhiannon Maire Edwards, Newport News Public Schools, Ethel M. Gildersleeve Middle School  
Esther Carol Huggins, Hampton Public Schools, Spratley Gifted Center

Eighteen 2011 Senior Division projects qualified for advancement to the Virginia State Science and Engineering Fair. Tidewater students won the following honors at the state level

- 1<sup>st</sup> place in Biochemistry – Jessica M. Lee, York High
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Computer Science – Andrew Luo, York High
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place in Biochemistry – Corinne Moorefield, Ocean Lakes High
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place in Medicine and Health Sciences – Sandra Edwards-Thro and RadhaVenkatesan, York High
- Honorable Mention in Behavioral & Social Sciences – Joshua Day, Ocean Lakes High

The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Grand Prize Winners advanced to the 2011 Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in Los Angeles. Rachel Reon, a student **from Smithfield High** representing The Governor's School for Science and Technology won the following honors:

- 1<sup>st</sup> place from the American Veterinary Medical Association, plaque and \$1000
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place from the American Psychological Association \$500