



PUBLIC SCHOOLS RELEASE
TO: Superintendents, Charter Administrators
Monday, March 14, 2016
www.sde.idaho.gov

Contacts:
Jeff Church
Chief Communications Officer
(208) 332-6934
jchurch@sde.idaho.gov

SHERRI YBARRA
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

SDE Support Desk
(208) 332-6923
support@sde.idaho.gov

TOP STUDENT INVENTORS HONORED

650 W. STATE STREET
P.O. BOX 83720
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

OFFICE: 208-332-6800
FAX: 208-334-2228
SPEECH/HEARING
IMPAIRED: 1-800-377-3529
WWW.SDE.IDAHO.GOV

(BOISE) – The winners of last weekend’s Invent Idaho state finals competition in Moscow will have an opportunity to display their ideas at the Idaho State Capitol on Invent Idaho Day, March 14.

At the state finals, held at the University of Idaho March 4-5, a total of 145 student inventors in grades 1-12, previously selected at regional competitions in Coeur d’ Alene, Blackfoot and Boise, competed in five different categories, with the 68 students who earned top honors qualifying to put their inventive efforts on display on the fourth floor of the rotunda next Monday.

Those winning Best of Show, Best of Category and the new high school division’s Grand Champion honors also are invited to the U of I Expo on April 29 to “pitch” their inventions during the College of Engineering Senior Design Day. In addition, those students, plus all the first-place winners at last weekend’s state finals, have qualified for the first-ever National Invention Convention in Washington, D.C., May 20-21. All environmental-themed inventions may also enter the national I Cubed Challenge

At the state Invent Idaho competition, students showed their ideas in categories for Adaptations, Gadgets and Games, Jules Verne “futuristic” inventions, Non-Working Models and Working Models of their ideas. Although Invent Idaho is 27 years old, this is the second year high school students have participated, so only a single grand champion prize was awarded.

Mia O’Hara, from the North Idaho STEM Charter Academy in Rathdrum, won the high school championship and a \$1,000 scholarship from the College of Engineering at the University of Idaho.

Josiah Wenner, the Best of Show winner for grades 1-4, and Sydney Blood, the Best of Show winner for grades 5-8, both received a Lego EV3 robotics kit donated by Lego Education and sponsored by Discover Technology. Wenner, a student at Pioneer School of the Arts in the West Ada School District, won in the Games and Gadgets division with his “Say It and Play It” invention. Blood, a student at Monroe Elementary in Boise, won in the Non-Working division for her invention of a “No Pressure Ballet Bar.”

The five Best of Category winners each received a SnapCircuits science kit, sponsored by Time Warner Cable.

The category winners are:

Owen Forsman, from the Lakeland School District’s Garwood Elementary School in Rathdrum, was best in the Adaptations category for his project, “Lighten-Up.” Adaptations involve an idea already in existence and improve upon it. A three-dimensional sample or model of the adaptation is required.



SHERRI YBARRA
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

650 W. STATE STREET
P.O. BOX 83720
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

OFFICE: 208-332-6800
FAX: 208-334-2228
SPEECH/HEARING
IMPAIRED: 1-800-377-3529
WWW.SDE.IDAHO.GOV

Chase Crawford, a student at Siena Elementary School in the West Ada School District, earned Best in Category for his Games and Gadgets project “Marble Matrix.” That category involves novel devices or toys, for the purpose of entertainment, education or amusement. The category also includes original board, computer, and other digitally-produced games, designed and programmed by the student inventor, as well as sports or athletic games and activities. Examples and full directions for playing are required.

Evelyn Hollis, a student at the Lake Hazel Elementary GT Center in the West Ada School District, was best in the Jules Verne category with her “Learning Pod” invention. That category includes ideas “too futuristic or fanciful to be judged against more practical inventions.” A detailed drawing and a 3-D model representing the invention idea are required.

Zane Laker, a student at The Ramsey Magnet School of Science elementary school in the Coeur d’Alene School District, was best in the Non-Working Model category with his “Forest Defender” idea. That category is for inventions that would be too large, expensive, or technical to build. Each entry must include a “blueprint” as well as a three-dimensional model or sample, which does not actually function.

Elena Li, from Collister Elementary in Boise, was best in the Working Model category with her “Smart Parking Indication System.” That category includes projects where students have produced a working full-size or scaled working model or sample of the invention. The invention must accomplish a stated goal or purpose.

The origins of Invent Idaho go back over 30 years ago as a project-based competition that invites students to use their creative problem-solving abilities, research skills and artistic skills. All projects include three major components: a journal documenting the process from brainstorming and research to marketing; an exhibit board that artfully displays the problem and solution to the invention and how it works, and the invention itself in a 3-D model form. “Although mainly taught in gifted classrooms, the program is open to all students who wish to use their creative skills toward inventing something new, outlandish, or simply adaptive to daily life needs,” said Dr. Peggy Wenner, the Arts and Humanities, Gifted Education coordinator for the Idaho State Department of Education.

Beth Brubaker, the Invent Idaho state coordinator, noted that many schools are adopting Invent Idaho as a schoolwide curriculum and event “where the entire student body celebrates innovative thinking. With the addition of the high school division as well as the current emphasis on STEM education, Invent Idaho is experiencing exponential growth,” she said.

Sponsors of Invent Idaho included the University of Idaho, the Idaho STEM Action Center, Time Warner Cable, E-Z Frames, the Micron Foundation, JUMP, the Jeker Family Trust Foundation, Randall-Danskin Attorneys, Discover Technology, Figpickels Toy Emporium, Lego Education, Rathdrum Power, USBank, Intermax Networks, the Inventors Association of Idaho, the Bird Aviation Museum and Invention Center. The Ray and Joan Kroc Center, and Silver Lake Mall. Any individuals or companies who would like to become a sponsor of Invent Idaho can contact Brubaker at bethbr@inventidaho.com

The list of students who took top honors at Invent Idaho is attached.

###