

2006 National *You Be The Chemist* Challenge

Deductive reasoning and the General Conference of Weights and Measurements, these are the answers correctly supplied by Karen, a 7th grader from Peru, IL, to win her the title of National *You Be The Chemist* Challenge (YBTCC) Champion!



On June 9, Karen and six other nervous, yet excited contestants gathered at the Chemical Heritage Foundation (CHF) in Philadelphia, PA, geared up for a challenge! The other contestants were Aidan, a 6th grader from Chesterfield, MI; Dan, an 8th grader from Des Plaines, IL; Sarah, an 8th grader from Mt. Clemens, MI; Jasmine, an 8th grader from Rochester, NY; Elena, a 6th grader from Houston, TX; and second place winner, Rachel, an 8th grader from Brandenburg, KY.

This year's national competition was sponsored by AIG Environmental of New York, NY, a division of American International Group, Inc (AIG). "The Challenge is a great community outreach tool. AIG Environmental is excited to be part of an event that can so positively impact our chemical industry clients and the communities in which they operate," stated Darin Winick, Association Program Manager, AIG Environmental. Mr. Winick also served as a one of three competition judges.



The shared responsibility of moderating the event fell on Nandini Mouli from Dupont Research & Development of Wilmington, DE and Jennifer Shepler from Dupont Engineering, also of Wilmington. In addition to Mr. Winick, Lynn Solorio from Carus Chemical Company of Peru, IL and Laurel Brent from CEF, also served as competition judges.

The audience, which consisted of more than thirty family members and chemical industry representatives, were on the edge of their seats as the impressive group of seven battled their way through almost 200 questions before a winner was declared. Karen and the first and second runner-ups, Rachel and Jasmine, respectively, all received educational savings bonds from CEF. All of the participants

received a CHEMC1000 chemistry set, a gift certificate to the Discovery Channel Store, a gift subscription to *National Geographic Kids* magazine and YBTCC lab coats, t-shirts, note pads, and pencils!

The historical charm of downtown Philadelphia was the back drop for the two-day event. In addition to the academics of the competition, students, parents, and local-level Challenge organizers were also able to participate in different activities around the city. They were lead on a tour of the historical artifacts of CHF, spent an afternoon exploring the wonders of science on display at the Franklin Institute, and were treated to dinners at the Hard Rock Café and Philadelphia's historical City Tavern.



Now going into its third year, this academic question-and-answer competition is steadily growing. All of the localities that have participated in the past two years intend to participate again, involving more schools and companies in their respective areas! The Challenge has the potential to grow in leaps and bounds in the coming years and we want your community to get involved! Don't be left out of the excitement of the Challenge! For more information on how easy it is to sponsor a Local Challenge in your area, please contact the CEF staff at 703/527-6223.

Congratulations and thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of this year's National *You Be The Chemist* Challenge competition!

** Challenge competition images courtesy of Douglas A. Lockard Photography.
(Event activity images provided by CEF staff.)*

For more information or to share your thoughts about the National YBTC Challenge, contact us at:

The Chemical Educational Foundation
1555 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 700
Arlington, VA 22209
Phone: 703/527-6223