

2009 National *You Be The Chemist* Challenge

On Friday, June 19, fifteen students from across the country showcased their knowledge of chemistry concepts, important discoveries, and safety awareness as they battled to become champion of a national chemistry competition created by the Chemical Educational Foundation (CEF).

After seven rounds, Daniel, an eighth grader at Westdale Middle School in Baton Rouge, LA, emerged as the winner, gaining the title of 2009 National YBTC Challenge champion! Nabil, an eighth grader at Exeter Junior High School in Reading, PA, and Siddhant, an eighth grader at City Hill Middle School in Naugatuck, CT, placed second and third, respectively.



Throughout the school year, thousands of students participated in Regional and/or State YBTC Challenges nationwide. The top fifteen students, one from each participating state, advanced to the



national competition. The other National Challenge participants were: Yury of Austin, Texas; Luke of Salt Lake City, Utah; Apostolos of Detroit, Michigan; Wil of Lake Wylie, SC; Cody of Comanche, OK; Jarrod of Vine Grove, KY; Audrey of Wilmette, IL; Willem of Washington, DC; Lexi of Franklin, NC, Kelly of Leesburg, VA; Camille of Toledo, OH; and Ryan of Franklin Lakes, NJ.

Held at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia, PA, the national competition brought together almost one hundred chemical industry representatives, family members, and educators in a celebration of chemistry. “The

bright young minds showcased in this year’s National Challenge are a testament to the fact that students are gaining greater exposure to chemistry through this program,” stated CEF Executive Director John Rice. “The program continues to grow each year as more and more chemical companies are partnering with the educators and schools in their community – leading to a greater number of students being engaged in science education and the development of stronger community relationships,” he added.

Joining in the excitement of the competition were members of the chemical industry and chemistry academics who served as the competition’s official judges, ensuring a successful and stimulating event. The competition judges were: Kurt Kasper, Faculty Fellow at Rice University in Houston, TX; Paul Russo, Professor of Chemistry at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, LA; and Barry Stewart, Senior Associate Production Engineer for Arch Chemicals, Inc. of Brandenburg, Kentucky.





While in Philadelphia, all of the National YBTC Challenge participants received exciting prizes, including Thames & Kosmos CHEMC3000 chemistry kits, gift certificates to the Discovery Channel Store, and YBTC Challenge T-shirts, bags, and other giveaways. The first-, second-, and third-place winners will also receive educational savings bonds. In addition to the academics of the competition, participants, chaperones, and industry members were able to explore the city, enjoy local restaurants, and relax as they explored the wonders of science at the Franklin Institute.

Thank You!

Industry members demonstrated resounding support for the Challenge and for enhancing science education as a whole through their attendance and sponsorship of the event.

Gold level sponsors of this year's national competition were:

- Arch Chemicals, Inc., Norwalk, CT
- Brenntag North America, Inc., Reading, PA
- The Dow Chemical Company Foundation, Midland, MI
- ICL Performance Products LP, East Greenwich, RI
- Ironshore Environmental, New York, NY
- Shell Chemical LP, Houston, TX
- Univar, Bellevue, WA

Silver level sponsors were:

- National Association of Chemical Distributors, Arlington, VA
- Society of Chemical Manufacturers & Affiliates, Washington, DC
- Thames & Kosmos, Portsmouth, RI

Bronze level sponsors were:

- Expo Chemical Co., Inc., Houston, TX
- Texas Instruments, Inc., Dallas, TX
- Turning Technologies, LLC, Youngstown, OH



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

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