

2011 National *You Be The Chemist* Challenge

On Monday, June 20, Andrew Lingenfelter, an eighth grader from Seneca Falls Middle School in Evans City, PA, emerged victorious at the Chemical Educational Foundation's (CEF's) 2011 National *You Be The Chemist* Challenge – an academic competition that quizzes grade 5-8 students on important chemistry concepts, processes, and historical discoveries.



Held at the [National Constitution Center](#) in Philadelphia, PA, Andrew and nineteen other students battled through seven thrilling rounds of competition before he took the title. Shivani Angappon, a homeschooled fifth grader from Bedford, MA; Haripriya Mehta, a seventh grader at Iroquois Middle School in Des Plaines, IL; and Namita Nabar, an eighth grader at Brea Junior High School in Brea, CA, placed second, third, and fourth respectively.



The competition brought together almost two 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. “This has been the most successful Challenge year yet with more chemical companies than ever before 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.

Throughout the school year, approximately 12,000 thousand students participated in Regional and/or State Challenges nationwide. The top nineteen students, one from each participating state, advanced to the national competition. In addition to the top four, participants represented Connecticut, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, DC, and Wisconsin.





As a part of the Challenge experience, participants, their family members, and educators are treated to a three-day event that includes exploration of the city, a tour of the Chemical Heritage Foundation, a breakfast and planetarium show at The Franklin Institute, followed by an afternoon of exploration throughout the museum's exhibits.

While in Philadelphia, all of the National Challenge participants received exciting prizes including Thames & Kosmos CHEM C3000 chemistry kits, gift certificates to the Discovery Channel

Store, and Challenge T-shirts, bags, and other giveaways. The first-, second-, third- and fourth -place winners also received educational scholarships.

In addition to the events surrounding the competition, Challenge participants, family members, and educators mingled with members of the chemical industry in a celebration dinner held immediately following the crowning of the National Challenge Champion, Andrew Lingenfelter. The dinner was held at The Franklin Institute and celebrated the accomplishments of the Challenge participants and 2011 being named the International Year of Chemistry! Attendees mingled during a reception in the museum's exhibit hall and then enjoyed dinner and lively interactive chemistry show in historic Franklin Hall. The night also included an award ceremony for the participants. Winner, Andrew, took the podium as he accepted his \$5,000 scholarship and described the entire experience as "awesome," while congratulating his fellow participants on all of the effort they put into preparing for the competition.



CEF's National Challenge and International Year of Chemistry Celebration Dinner was sponsored by Brenntag North America, Inc., The Dow Chemical Company Foundation, ICL Performance Products LP, PVS-Nolwood Chemicals, Inc., Shell Chemical Company, and Univar.

Thank You!

The National Challenge and all of its surrounding events are organized by CEF and sponsored by members of the chemical industry:

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

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