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## **National *You Be The Chemist* Challenge Winner Announced**

*Seventh-grader Anurag Sodhi of Maryland takes home the championship title*

ARLINGTON, VA – The Chemical Educational Foundation (CEF) on Monday hosted its 15<sup>th</sup> annual National *You Be The Chemist* Challenge® in Washington, DC.

CEF, a nonprofit organization dedicated to inspiring students to pursue chemistry and STEM-related learning and careers, welcomed 42 students to compete onstage at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in a quiz-bowl style chemistry competition hosted by Dr. Calvin Emanuel of Shell Chemical LP. Each of the participants won at the state level before advancing to the national level.

Anurag Sodhi, a seventh-grader from Ellicott City, MD, answered 66 questions over the course of nine intense rounds. He entered a single-elimination tiebreaker round when he and Yuvan Chali, an eighth-grader from Franterac, MO, remained tied at the end of the championship round. Both participants answered seven tiebreaker questions correctly before Anurag secured his spot as the National *You Be The Chemist* champion on the eighth question.

“It’s incredibly exciting to watch these kids compete onstage. They have worked so hard to make it here, and seeing them experience the intensity and thrill of the National Challenge in real time is fun for everyone involved,” said CEF Executive Director Dwayne Sattler. “One of the most unique things about this event is that it brings together so many of the people rooting for these participants in one place – parents, teachers, volunteers, and industry sponsors and supporters who know that these kids are the future of their workplaces.”

The top 4 winners received scholarship checks to be used for higher education later in their academic careers:

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Anurag Sodhi, 7<sup>th</sup> grade, Ellicott City, MD - \$12,000 scholarship

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Yuvan Chali, 8<sup>th</sup> grade, Franterac, MO - \$6,000 scholarship

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Jiarui Peng, 7<sup>th</sup> grade, Niantic, CT - \$3,000 scholarship

4<sup>th</sup> Place: Daniel Kaganovich, 8<sup>th</sup> grade, San Jose, CA - \$1,500 scholarship

CEF’s *You Be The Chemist* programs are designed to inspire students, engage educators, and strengthen communities to build a better world through the science of chemistry. Last year, *You Be The Chemist* reached more than 650,000 students across the country.

More information about the National Challenge can be found at [www.chemed.org/](http://www.chemed.org/).

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