



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**And the Winner is...
Shreyas Arcot of Virginia Wins
2018 National *You Be The Chemist* Challenge**

ARLINGTON, VA – Seventh-grader Shreyas Arcot from Glen Allen, Va., today won the title of National *You Be The Chemist* Challenge Champion by correctly answering science and chemistry-related questions throughout an exhilarating day-long 11 rounds of academic bee-style competition. It was his third time competing at the National Challenge.

This year the top four placing students won academic scholarships totaling \$22,500 and other science-related prizes. The Challenge Champion and the next top three Participants are:

Challenge Champion

Shreyas Arcot, 7th Grade
Glen Allen, VA
Moody Middle School

“As the 2018 National Champion for You Be The Chemist, I am very proud and I would love to tell all the chemists out there that you should always stay interested in chemistry and that it’s a great subject and that you should never lose heart.”

2nd Place Participant

Asher Wallen, 8th Grade
Mt. Pleasant, SC
Buist Academy

3rd Place Participant

Lee Garber-Ford, 8th Grade
Cleves, OH
Taylor Middle School

4th Place Participant

Lawrence Zhao, 8th grade
Champaign, IL
University Laboratory High School

“This year’s competition was fierce,” said CEF Executive Director Dwayne Sattler. “At CEF we are incredibly proud of how this Challenge has instilled an interest in chemistry for middle school students across the country. Over the past 14 years we’ve watched this program grow and inspire STEM majors and careers. Congratulations to Shreyas Arcot on the impressive chemistry knowledge demonstrated at the National Challenge and to all of the competitors. Tomorrow’s leaders are among these talented individuals and we can’t wait to see what they accomplish next.”



The *You Be The Chemist* Challenge is an academic competition targeted at students in grades 5-8, when most U.S. students have not studied chemistry as its own subject. Local, State, and National *You Be The Chemist* Challenge competitions throughout the school year encourage collaboration among industry, schools, educators, and community partners to support early STEM education and provide students with critical exposure to chemistry concepts. In 2017, student Participants reported an increased interest in pursuing STEM education and career paths, and greater confidence in their ability to use STEM concepts in everyday life.

The National Challenge is the culmination of local and state Challenges that happen throughout the school year in 40 states and two U.S. territories (D.C. and Puerto Rico). Approximately 46,000 students participated in Challenge events across the country in 2018 and one student from each of these 42 statewide competitions came to Washington, D.C. to compete for the National Champion title.

The National Challenge brought together nearly 400 chemical industry representatives, family members, and educators in a celebration of science-related careers and the role of chemistry in everyday life. Over the course of the four-day event, participants toured Washington, D.C., visited Smithsonian Museums on the National Mall, and were celebrated at a dinner and awards ceremony where students had the opportunity to interact with business leaders, chemists, and science educators.

CEF congratulates Shreyas Arcot and all the students, educators, and schools that participated in the 2018 *You Be The Chemist* Challenge. CEF thanks all of the [National Challenge sponsors](#), particularly Diamond Sponsor, The Dow Chemical Company, and Platinum Sponsor, BASF Corporation, for helping foster STEM education nationwide. Information on the 2018 National *You Be The Chemist* Challenge and this year's student participants can be found at www.chemed.org/whats-new.

For photos of the Challenge Champion or the other top finalists, please send an email to rossbach@jdafrontline.com.

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