

MLK Students Compete at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair

Senior Lucas Hofmeister and Junior Chenxia Monica Guan, students at Martin Luther King High School, exhibited their science research projects May 6-12 at the International Science and Engineering Fair, held this year in Indianapolis, IN. Hofmeister and Guan competed against 1497 finalists from over 47 countries for almost \$4 million dollars in scholarships and prizes. Hofmeister was awarded one of the nine 2nd place awards of \$1,500 in the 320 project Engineering category for his work, “Development of a Planar Perfused Tumor Bioreactor”. This was the 2nd year for Hofmeister at the ISEF, where he was awarded a 2nd place last year as well. Roughly a quarter of the participants at the ISEF receive awards. The 2nd award by Hofmeister was the second best showing of any of the 16 TN projects at the fair and the best TN individual project. A team project from Cookeville High School received a 1st award in the Environmental category.

Monica’s project was entitled, “Variations in the Cerebral Cortex in Two Inbred Mouse Strains”. This was her first time at the ISEF. Both she and Hofmeister worked in research labs at Vanderbilt University on their research projects. They were able to compete at the ISEF as a result of winning the 2 Grand Prize Awards at the Middle TN Science and Engineering Fair, held in March at Austin Peay State University. As sponsor of the ISEF affiliated fair, APSU gives each of the 2 high school grand prize winners an all expense paid trip to the ISEF as well as a one year tuition free scholarship to APSU. More information, including a list of all awards given at the MTSEF, can be found at www.apsu.edu/mtsef. The director of the fair is Dr. Ron Robertson, Associate Professor of Chemistry. He can be reached at robertsonr@apsu.edu.

The Intel ISEF is the world's largest pre-college science competition. Now in its 57th year, the Intel ISEF is the world's only science project competition for students in the ninth

through twelfth grades, bringing together students, teachers, corporate executives, and government officials from around the world. Students compete in 15 categories: Behavioral and Social Sciences, Biochemistry, Botany, Chemistry, Computer Science, Earth Science, Engineering, Environmental Science, Mathematics, Medicine & Health, Microbiology, Physics, Space Science, and Zoology. The projects are judged by over 1,000 science, engineering, and industry professionals. All judges have a Ph.D. or equivalent degree and/or six years of relevant experience.

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