



## MN State Regional Science Bowl for Middle School Students

## MN State Regional Science Bowl for High School Students

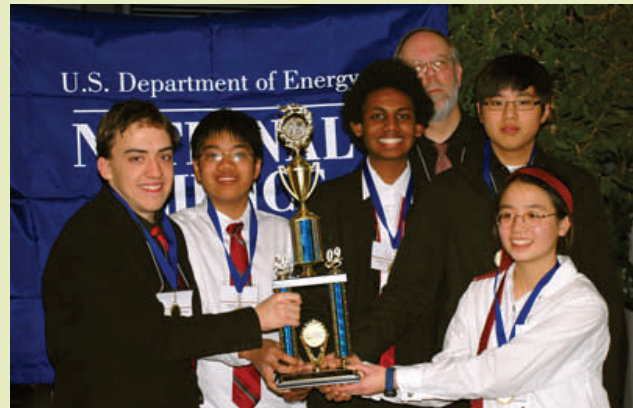


All eyes in the room are upon student #3 sitting at the front of the room who has just buzzed in poised to answer the question, "For a circuit with a current of 3 amperes, operating for 5 minutes, how much charge, in coulombs, has gone by any point in the circuit?" With a correct answer, she can force a tiebreaker and move her team closer to the final round of the **MN State Regional Science Bowl for High School Students**. The volunteer moderator, a professional scientist from General Mills, acknowledges the student and waits for her answer. Without hesitation the student answers, "900 C." Of course the answer is correct as  $DQ = 1 DT \dots$  Since coulombs is in seconds, convert 5 minutes into 300 seconds and multiply by 3 C/s = 900 C. The team pumps their fists in the air and let out their restrained energy with a bold, "Yeah!"

Teamwork, camaraderie and educational excellence in the sciences are only some of the by-products of the **Science Bowl** program of the Minnesota Academy of Science. Other goals include enhancing the students' interest in science, developing leadership skills, providing opportunities for interaction between students and scientists, promoting ethical standards of conduct and influencing students' decisions to pursue careers in science.

The Minnesota Academy of Science held the **MN State Regional Science Bowl for High School Students** on January 23, 2009 at Macalester College. The **MN State Regional Science Bowl for Middle School Students** was held on February 21, 2009 at the University of Minnesota – Institute of Technology. Between the two events, 39 teams consisting of 189 students and 24 coaches participated. The **science bowls** test teams of students utilizing a fast-paced question and answer format similar to the TV game show *Jeopardy*. Teams were tested on a variety of science disciplines including earth, physical, and life sciences, general science, and mathematics. Many of the teams spent months preparing for the event.

The winning teams were from **St. Paul Central High School** and **Springfield Public School** (middle school). Each team received a team trophy, individual medals, a \$1,000 check for their school science department and an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. to compete against the other regional winners in the Department of Energy (DOE) National Science Bowl finals, April 30 – May 5, 2009.



A total of 86 scientists from local educational institutions and scientific companies volunteered to staff the two competitions. They served as proofreaders, moderators, scorekeepers, timekeepers, scientific judges, rules judges and room runners. Many of these scientists chose to volunteer two full days within a month to make these events happen.

The Minnesota State Regional Science Bowls were sponsored by contributions from Ecolab, General Mills, Great River Energy, Macalester College and the University of Minnesota-Institute of Technology.

*By Lisa Warbritton, Science Bowl Coordinator*

