



Press Release

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FUTURE SCIENTISTS TO CONVENE AT 73rd ANNUAL MINNESOTA STATE SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FAIR

Students to showcase the state's most advanced and interesting science projects

Minneapolis— March 23, 2010— Approximately 500 students from across Minnesota will be showcasing the state's most advanced and interesting science projects at the 73rd annual Minnesota Academy of Science State Science and Engineering Fair, March 26-28, 2010, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel Riverfront in downtown St. Paul.

This statewide science and engineering competition is for Minnesota students in grades seven through 12, and is sponsored by Seagate Technology, Ecolab, 3M and Medtronic. Of the nearly 3,000 students who compete in regional science fairs across Minnesota, about 500 students advance to the State Science and Engineering Fair.

“Science fairs kindle students’ interest in STEM,” said Lise Weegman, director of the State Science and Engineering Fair, Minnesota Academy of Science. “Many students apply scientific research to their personal interests, fusing a lasting connection between the two. The State Science and Engineering Fair enables students to communicate their research findings to professionals who work in their fields of interest, and it instills a passion for science that we believe will influence students’ future career choices.”

State Science and Engineering Fair awards are given to students with the highest scoring projects and research papers in 17 categories: Animal Sciences, Behavioral & Social Sciences, Biochemistry, Cellular and Molecular Biology, Chemistry, Computers, Earth & Planetary Science, Energy & Transportation, Engineering-Materials and Bioengineering, Engineering –Electrical & Mechanical, Environmental Management, Environmental Science & Analysis, Mathematical Sciences, Medicine & Health, Microbiology, Physics & Astronomy, Plant Sciences.

Minnesota and the nation need these students to pursue STEM careers to ensure U.S. competitiveness in a global economy. According to the National Science Foundation, scientific innovation has produced roughly half of all U.S. economic growth in the last 50 years. And, the Commission on Professionals in Science and Technology states that although only about five percent of the U.S. workforce is employed in

STEM fields, the STEM workforce accounts for more than 50 percent of the country's sustained economic growth. Yet, if current trends continue, more than 90 percent of all scientists and engineers in the world will live in Asia, according to the Business Roundtable in Washington DC.

“We share the Minnesota Academy of Science’s commitment to engaging students in hands-on science and believe in their role in building a gateway for students to choose STEM careers,” said Bob Whitmore, chief technical officer at Seagate. “Participation in the State Science and Engineering Fair encourages innovation, reinforces practical application of skills and gives these accomplished young scientists well-deserved recognition for their efforts.”

State Science and Engineering Fair Schedule – all media are invited to the following:

Friday, March 26	5:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Opening ceremony; welcome by Michael Hahm, CPRP Director St Paul’s Parks and Recreation Department.
Saturday, March 27	10:00 am – 3:30 pm	Project judging takes place. Media is able to come during this time.
Student Choice Award:	4:00 pm. – 5:00 pm	High School select best Middle School project and Middle School students select best High School project
Saturday, March 27:	4:00 pm.-5:30pm	Exhibits open to the public. Student projects on display. Admission is free.
Saturday, March 27:	7:30pm – 9 pm	Special Awards Ceremony. Keynote Speaker, Jeff Montanye, Ecolab VP of Research & Development & Engineering for Food & Beverage Division North America. Military/Government/ Corporate awards and University Scholarships
Sunday, March 28:	9:00 am – 11:30 am	Grand Awards Ceremony. Keynote speaker – Carlyle Sulzer, Great River Energy. Seagate awards and MN Academy of Science top scoring projects are awarded.

All activities will take place at the Crowne Plaza Hotel Riverfront, 11 East Kellogg Blvd, St. Paul, Minn. 55101. Students, Minnesota Academy of Science representatives and State Science and Engineering Fair judges will be available for interviews at the times indicated above.

About the Minnesota Academy of Science

The Minnesota Academy of Science encourages and facilitates excellence in science education and encourages active participation in scientific inquiry. Since 1873, the organization has been striving to encourage and promote students’ interest in science, promote quality scientific research, and recognize high achievement in science, education, engineering and technology. Additional information regarding MAS and its programs can be found at <http://www.mnmas.org>.