

State Science Fair & Jr. Science & Humanities Symposium



The Minnesota Academy of Science State Fair is an annual event that showcases Minnesota's best and brightest students in the field of science. It is the culmination of Regional MN Fairs occurring throughout the winter. Participants in the MAS State Fair are in Junior or Senior High and compete by presenting projects to a group of judges from various disciplines.

From approximately 2,500 regional participants, 452 students are selected to present at the Minnesota Academy of Science State Fair. At the fair, 45 organizations and businesses presented over 100 awards to students with outstanding projects.

For a complete list of Science Fair awards and recipients, visit our website at www.mnacadsci.org

The Junior Science and Humanities Symposium (JSBS), held in conjunction with the State Science Fair, provides an opportunity for 50 students to present outstanding research papers to their peers and professional scientists. Winners of the regional JSBS competition this year were **James Hanson, Amy Tierney, Steve Trettel, Carl Turner, and Mitch & Matt Weegman.**

Thank you to Gary Alexander for organizing and running this year's amazing events.

Also thank you to Jim Waddell, Jennifer Banker's Fulbright, Jennifer Hugstaad-Vaa, Cheryl Moertel, Lise & Dale Weegman, Mike & Penny Lohman, and keynote speakers Mike Schaefer and Diane Rucker. Special thanks to all of the volunteer judges who gave so much time and energy to help their incredible students.

This year's generous sponsors included Seagate, Ecolab, 3M, Medtronic, General Mills, Pentair, Toro, American Medical Systems, the Science Museum of MN, and the Academy of Applied Science.

2006 Seagate Mentor Awards

Long before the recent push to close science and math achievement gaps for students, two Minnesota science teachers were reaching above and beyond to leave no child behind — especially in math and science. **Rachel Peterson** from St. Helena's in Minneapolis and **David Bosma** from Alden, were recently honored with the Seagate Mentor award for their efforts in promoting science education by encouraging and supporting students' hands-on experience outside of the classroom.

Peterson has been mentoring science students at St. Helena Catholic School. This year, as the middle school's only science teacher, she supervised more than 60 projects for the school's science fair. She sent seven first place winners to the regional science fair level, where three of them were selected to compete at state. According to Program Manager Gary Alexander, it was obvious to the Seagate Mentor award committee that St. Helena has a gem of a science teacher with Peterson.

Bosma has been mentoring for 12 years. His science students at Alden-Conger High School received hands-on attention from a teacher whose passion for teaching science and desire for student's success is profoundly evident to both the students and community. Bosma's work includes mentoring students involved in physical science, chemistry, physics and applied science.

The Seagate Mentor award, sponsored by Seagate Technology, provides an annual, statewide recognition for teachers who have mentored student participants in the Minnesota Academy of Science State Fairs.

- excerpted from a press release from Seagate Technology Inc.