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Two Nevada entries place at international science fair

Nevada students from Reno and Fernley were among the award winners; 4,500 Nevada students—an event record—attended the fair yesterday

RENO, Nev. – The week-long 2009 Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) concluded today with the Grand Awards Ceremony at the Reno-Sparks Convention Center. At an additional awards program yesterday evening, the Special Awards Ceremony, more than 60 scientific, professional and educational organizations awarded scholarships, summer internships, book and equipment grants, and scientific field trips.

Three Nevada students were among the dozens of students who received awards at both ceremonies.

During the Grand Awards Ceremony, Taylor Wilson, 15, a freshman attending The Davidson Academy of Nevada in Reno, received a fourth place award in the category of Physics and Astronomy for his project “Subcritical Neutron Multiplication in a 2.5 MeV Neutron Flux.” At the Special Awards Ceremony, Wilson received the second of three awards presented by the American Vacuum Society and a certificate of honorable mention from the American Association of Physics Teachers and the American Physical Society.

Also during the Grand Awards Ceremony, Christian Thomas Burlison, 15, a sophomore, and Amberleigh Dawn Thompson, 17, a senior, both attending Fernley High School, received a fourth place team award for their project, “Lichen as Indicators of Human Impact” .

A complete list of the Grand Award and Special Award winners is available at the Society for the Science and the Public web site, <http://www.societyforscience.org/>.

Yesterday, the Intel ISEF was open to the public. Based on registration of school groups at the Convention Center entrances, organizers estimate that 4,500 Nevada students attended the event, with students coming from as far away as Owyhee, Nev. The Society for Science and the Public, which owns and administers Intel ISEF, noted this as the largest ever participation of elementary, middle and high school students at an Intel ISEF event.

Intel ISEF 2010 will take place in San Jose, Calif.

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The 60th Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) is hosted by the City of Reno and Gathering Genius, Inc. May 10 through 15, 2009, at the Reno-Sparks Convention Center. The world's largest pre-college science competition and world's only science, math and engineering project competition for students working at a high level, Intel ISEF is a program of the Society for Science and the Public. Learn more at www.isefnevada.com.