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Nine Nevada students will compete at international science fair

Public invited to view science and engineering projects of more than 1,500 student finalists representing 51 countries and 46 states on Thursday, May 14

RENO, Nev. – High school students from Elko, Fernley, Incline Village, Las Vegas and Reno will be among the more than 1,500 finalists competing in the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) May 10-15 at the Reno Sparks Convention Center.

The event is expected to bring more than 6,000 visitors to the region, including the finalists representing 51 countries and 46 states. It is estimated that Intel ISEF will generate \$6.6 million in tourism revenue for the region.

Millions of high-school level children participate annually in local science fairs around the world. Those who compete at Intel ISEF have advanced from the more than 550 ISEF-affiliated regional fairs. "Team Nevada" includes winners from Nevada's three affiliated fairs held in March 2009: the Elko County Science Fair in Elko, the Southern Nevada Regional Science and Engineering Fair in Las Vegas, and the Western Regional Science and Engineering Fair in Reno.

Team Nevada competitors, including one team and eight individual finalists, are:

- Christian Thomas Burleson, 15, a sophomore, and Amberleigh Dawn Thompson, 17, a senior, both attending Fernley High School and presenting "Lichen as Indicators of Human Impact"
- Anthony James Fidaleo, 14, a freshman attending The Davidson Academy of Nevada in Reno, presenting "The Effect of 1/f Noise on Harmonic Resonance"
- Christopher John Heslop, 18, a senior attending home school in Incline Village, presenting "Water Shapes the Desert, Year III"
- Kallie Ann Kappes, 16, a junior attending Elko High School, presenting "The Effects of the Transformation Process on the Ethanol Production of Enteric Bacteria"
- Alastair Eric Moody, 16, a sophomore attending Reno High School, presenting "Effects of Feeder Color and Nectar Quality on Hummingbird Feeding Behavior"
- Ronita Mukherjee, 17, a senior attending The Meadows School in Las Vegas, presenting "Chemical Soil Analysis of Anasazi Corn"

- Erin Elizabeth Perry, 18, a senior attending Elko High School, presenting “The Creation of a Biophotovoltaic Device Using the PS-I Complex Stabilized by Peptide Surfactants”
- Taylor Ramon Wilson, 14, a freshman attending The Davidson Academy of Nevada in Reno, presenting “Subcritical Neutron Multiplication in a 2.5 MeV Neutron Flux”

The week-long Intel ISEF schedule includes a free Public Visitation Day, May 14, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the Convention Center. Finalists will be at their projects from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thousands of Nevada school children are expected to attend as part of school tour groups.

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Editors’ note: For more information, visit the Host City’s web site at <http://isefnevada.com/> and the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair media kit at www.intel.com/pressroom/kits/events/isef2009. Advanced media preregistration is encouraged: <http://www.societyforscience.org/isef/Press/index.asp>

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.