



***For immediate release: March 7, 2009***

## **Nevada's regional science fairs in March determine international finalists**

*With the 2009 Intel International Science and Engineering Fair coming to Reno, this year competing at the international level means competing close to home*

RENO, Nev. – Nevada's science fair season is on the horizon. However, when winners of Nevada's regional, high school fairs advance to the international level of competition, this year they will not even cross the state line.

The Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) is the world's largest pre-college science, math and engineering project competition, and it is coming to the Reno-Sparks Convention Center, May 10-16, 2009.

The 1,600 Intel ISEF finalists from around the world will include the winners of Nevada's three affiliated, high-school science fairs held in March:

- The [2009 Beal Bank Nevada Southern Nevada Regional Science and Engineering Fair](#), March 13-14, in the Student Union on the campus of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.
- The [Elko County Science Fair](#), March 16-19, at the Elko Convention Center.
- The [Western Regional Science and Engineering Fair](#), March 26-28, at Lawlor Events Center on the campus of the University of Nevada, Reno.

Intel ISEF is a program with true international flavor. Finalists emerge from a worldwide field of several million science-fair participants. From that initial field, winners move on to compete with more than 65,000 students in affiliated regional fairs in more than 45 countries, territories and the United States for the right to be one of the 1,600 students who attend Intel ISEF and compete for nearly \$4 million in scholarships and prizes. Based on past events, it is estimated that 20 percent of the finalists will already have patents or patents pending on their projects.

Intel ISEF 2009 will take place at the Reno-Sparks Convention Center. It is anticipated to draw 6,000 visitors from more than 50 countries and generate \$6.6 million in tourism revenue to the state. A public day on May 14 is anticipated to draw thousands of elementary, middle and high school teachers and students.

"Bringing Intel ISEF to our region presents a wonderful opportunity to shine the spotlight on the role and importance of science and math education," said Stephen Wells, president of the Desert Research Institute and of Gathering Genius, Inc., the Nevada nonprofit organization hosting the event. "The event will allow our state to demonstrate to the world our commitment to research, discovery and supporting the scientists, mathematicians and engineers of tomorrow."

Intel ISEF is held in a different city each year and the 2008 competition was hosted in Atlanta, Ga.

For more information, to donate, to register as a judge or volunteer, or to find links to web sites for Nevada's regional science fairs, visit [www.isefnevada.com](http://www.isefnevada.com).

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*The 60<sup>th</sup> Intel International Science and Engineering Fair will be hosted by the City of Reno and Gathering Genius, Inc. May 10 through 16, 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](http://www.isefnevada.com).*