

Dear Science Educators, Parents, and Students,

The 2011-2012 Northeast North Carolina Regional Science Fair will be held on **Saturday, February 25, 2012** at East Carolina University in our Science and Technology Building third floor. As the new co-directors, we are looking forward to the event and have been busy getting ready. We hope to have participants from schools all ten counties in our region. We particularly want to encourage all high school science educators to motivate and assist students to complete science and engineering research projects and enter them into this regional fair. If they compete at our regional fair and win at this or the state level, our high schoolers will be eligible for the millions of dollars in awards at the International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF). To keep increasing the numbers, regional directors throughout the state of North Carolina have decided to continue to foster high school participation again this year by allowing high schools that do not have science fairs to send up to five projects as long as the students have followed ISEF rules and regulations. It would be up to the school to decide how to select the projects to send to the regional fair.

It is important that you schedule your local fairs early enough to send your registration forms and information to us by **February 10, 2012**. That will give us two weeks to arrange the judges for specific projects and to hone the schedule. Unfortunately, we will not be able to accept late entries.

As you may know, registration for the Northeast Regional Science Fair has been free and we have chosen to continue that policy into 2012. However, there are costs associated with the fair. In the past, these costs were covered by funds raised by the organizers. This year we plan to focus our time on having an exciting and well-organized fair as opposed to soliciting monetary support. Most likely, we will minimize the costs associated with the event by not having cash prizes in 2012, but instead award a certificate and a ribbon for winners within the categories.

Please check and confirm with the website for information on the numbers and types of projects that you can send from your school level to the regional fair.

We are committed to making this year's event successful and the faculty at ECU would be happy to help with the designs and projects, including conducting workshops for students and teachers. Please let us know if you are interested in having a faculty member come to your school.

We are in the process of updating the website so that you can find all the information that you need. If there is anything we can do to help, please feel free to contact either Dr. Grant Gardner, [gardnerg@ecu.edu](mailto:gardnerg@ecu.edu) or Dr. Mary Farwell, [farwellm@ecu.edu](mailto:farwellm@ecu.edu).

Thanks and we are looking forward to seeing you in February.

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