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Local Educators Attend Science Fair Workshop at ECU


“It was very informative,” said Jennifer Veverka, participant in the workshop from Martin County. “It helps to know how to work on a timeline for completion of the projects.”

According to Mary Farwell, ECU professor of biology and Region 1 Director of the NC Science and Engineering Fair, teachers were encouraged to take the information and materials back to their school districts.

Wilson County teacher Russell Weber stated, “This workshop will get our school started on Science Fair projects, as we have not done them in the past.”

Topics covered during the workshop included inspiring students to conduct independent research; assisting students in topic selection, time management and presentation skills; helping students to advance to regional, national and international competitions; and planning a school science and engineering research competition.

According to the NCSEF website, state and national interest in science during the 1950s resulted in the initiation of science fairs. Several high schools required students to submit projects to their local science fairs. Winners of local fairs then participated in district level competitions, and winners of the district fairs participated in state science fairs. The top two state science fair entries and their teachers also attended national competitions.

“During the 1960s and 1970s, interest in science fairs decreased and many local and district science fairs were discontinued,” reads the NCSEF website. “Beginning in the 1980s, the participation in these events have shown increased interest in science-related activities, resulting in competition at the local, regional, and beginning again at the state level in 1987.”

For more information about the fair held at ECU, contact NCSEF Region 1 Director Farwell at 252-328-9476 or farwellm@ecu.edu. Additional information about NC Science and Engineering Fair Workshops for the 2015-16 academic year is available at http://www.ncsciencefair.org/index.php/teachers/workshops.

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