

Area students to compete at DOE National Science Bowl

Posted: Sunday, April 24, 2016 12:23 AM

Staff report

The 2016 West Kentucky Regional Science Bowl is the road that ultimately leads to the Department of Energy (DOE) National Science Bowl in Washington, D.C., the foremost national academic and scientific event for high school students.

Seventeen middle school teams and 18 high school teams took part in double-elimination competitions Feb. 5 and 19, respectively, to determine the regional champions to represent their area at the national competition April 28 through May 2.

High school champion Gatton Academy received a \$1,000 cash prize and returns to the national competition for the third time in four years.

"The students at Gatton Academy love coming to the science bowl and are grateful to the Department of Energy," said Derick B. Strode, Gatton Academy high school coach. "All of the students' success is owed to their passion and dedication."

Calloway County Middle School won the middle school regional competition and will design, build, and race a battery-powered model car as part of the national competition.

DOE's Paducah Site Office, the University of Kentucky, and the Paducah Area Chamber of Commerce's Business Education Partnership hosted the annual West Kentucky Regional Science Bowl.

More than 100 volunteers worked to conduct the event, including DOE Paducah Site staff, contractors and subcontractors, and members of the community. Other sponsors included Fluor Paducah Deactivation Project, Professional Project Services, Inc. (Pro2Serve), BWXT Conversion Services, LLC (BWCS), Swift and Staley, HealthWorks, Beltline Electric, Ballard County Economic and Industrial Development Board, Paducah Water, and Paducah Economic Development.

Also during their trip to the national finals, students will attend presentations by well-known scientists on current topics in math and the sciences and visit national monuments and museums.

"The needs and opportunities facing our country today will result in numerous opportunities for our youth who are interested in scientific or technical careers," said Jennifer Woodard, DOE Paducah Site lead. "Majoring in science, technology, engineering, and math is a great return on investment for students because there are many career opportunities within DOE."

DOE's Office of Science manages the NSB, and sponsors the Finals competition.