



April 2, 2005
For Immediate Release

Over \$175, 000 in cash, prizes and scholarships was awarded to student participants in the **45th Annual 2005 Bay Area Science and Engineering Fair** on Saturday, April 2, 2005.

Almost 400 students from grades 7 – OAC in Hamilton, Halton, Brant, Haldimand and Norfolk spent months preparing over 250 amazing science and engineering projects. More than half of the students received Merit or Special Awards. **All** student participants were rewarded for their efforts with a goody bag that included Microsoft software, BASEF tee shirt, Sympatico music download coupons and the opportunity to attend the all expenses paid Activity Day event at Ontario Place.

Each of the 134 Gold, Silver or Bronze medallists received a \$500 entrance scholarship to be redeemed upon acceptance at either or Mohawk College or the Sheridan College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning. The three top projects shared the new \$2000 Dofasco Prize award.

Twenty four of the top winners of the Bay Area Science and Engineering Fair were awarded all expense paid Grand Trip Awards to compete at either the Canada Wide Science Fair (CWSF) in Vancouver, British Columbia, (May 15-22) or the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (IISEF) in Phoenix, Arizona, (May 7-14).

Natalie Raso, a grade 10 student from St. Thomas More High School in Hamilton, won the BASEF Best in Fair Pinnacle Award. Natalie's project explored the use of viruses to kill cancer, and she will be competing at both IISEF and CWSF in May. Natalie had been previously selected by the Youth Science Foundation of Canada to join the Team Canada delegation at IISEF.

Patrick Martin, a grade 11 student at Bishop Ryan High School in Hamilton won the BASEF 2nd place Pinnacle Award and Aaron Hakim, a grade 8 student from Appleby College won the 3rd place Pinnacle Award.

New this year, was The Microsoft Canada, "You Can Make a Difference" \$2000 cash award and matching \$2000 scholarship to Sheridan College. These awards were won by Joseph Querques, a grade 10 student from Christ the King Secondary School in Halton.

The future of our communities will be built on science, engineering and technology. There are few things that inspire more confidence in our future than listening to these enthusiastic young scientists discussing their research and results. The diverse project topics included the effects of antioxidants and free radicals on seed germination, renewable energy applications, robotics and a teaching system for autistic children. Our top students have spent hundreds of hours on their projects and we expect them to continue their successes at the national and international fairs in May.

BASEF is one of the oldest and longest, continuously running regional science fairs in the country and offers the largest prize purse. BASEF is a registered charity, relying entirely on volunteers and sponsors. Thanks to their support, BASEF 2005 was a tremendous success.

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