

Ames Laboratory Sends Teams and Volunteers to National Science Bowl

Central Academy of Des Moines finishes near top in the competition

Two teams of Iowa students and five Ames Laboratory employees traveled to Washington, D.C., to the U.S. Department of Energy's National Science Bowl held April 30-May 4.

Central Academy of Des Moines finished in the prestigious "Sweet 16" bracket of the National High School Science Bowl event. The finish near the top netted the team \$1,500 for Central Academy's science program.

Central Academy coach Jeff Hepburn said he was very proud of Central's place in the competition and the way the team members worked together to advance as far as they did.

"We didn't win the competition, but you have to be proud of the fact that we are one of the top 16 Science Bowl teams in the nation," says Hepburn.

In addition, Eleanor Roosevelt Middle School of Dubuque represented Iowa at the National Middle School Science Bowl. Although the Eleanor Roosevelt students did not place in the competition, coach Jennifer Meyer said she was "immensely pleased" with the support shown to the young future scientists at Science Bowl.

"Three of our students will have the opportunity to compete again next year, and they're already excited about forming their team," Meyer said.

Both Central Academy and Eleanor Roosevelt advanced to the National Science Bowl by winning their respective regional competitions, which are sponsored annually by Ames Laboratory.

Besides the two teams of students, Ames Laboratory sent five volunteers to the National Science Bowl. Director Alex King was a moderator at the event, and David Baldwin, director of the Midwest Forensics Resource Center, presented at the Science Day portion of Science Bowl. Cynthia Feller, Deb Samuelson and Steve Karsjen helped with logistics.

"Ames Laboratory is proud to support Science Bowl, which so strongly encourages excellence in science and math education – a key thrust of the Lab's mission," says Karsjen, Ames Lab's Science Bowl coordinator. ■

David Baldwin gives a presentation entitled "Blood, Camera, Action" during Science Day at National Science Bowl.



The Central Academy team holds its \$1,000 check for finishing in the top 16 at the National High School Science Bowl. Also, because the team had the highest score in the Division Team Challenge, it won another \$500, for a total of \$1,500 in winnings.



Ames Laboratory volunteers at the National Science Bowl included (left to right) Cynthia Feller (logistics), David Baldwin (Science Day presenter), Alex King (moderator), Steve Karsjen (logistics) and (not pictured) Deb Samuelson (logistics).