

Archived Information



Center for Collaborative Research & Education

K-12 Science Initiative Brief Secretary's Summit Goal 2: Engaging the Public

Science Olympiad National Tournament

Initiated: 1983

Grade Levels: 7-12

Location: University of Delaware

Primary Partners: DuPont, University of Delaware, National Science Olympiad

Number Affected: ~14,000 K-12 schools

Project Purpose

Goals: To increase students' interest in the sciences through hands-on, competitive experiences.

To challenge the stereotype of the "isolated scientist" working alone to solve a problem by promoting the values of teamwork, group planning, and cooperation.

Primary Activities: Events; Competitions; Teacher Professional Development.

Project Summary

In 2002, DuPont and the University of Delaware (Newark campus) co-hosted two Science Olympiad Tournaments for student competitors from middle schools and high schools nationwide. In January 82 teams from 20 states competed in 46 events at the 2002 Science Olympiad Invitational, and in May 120 teams (1800 students) from 46 states faced off at the 2002 Science Olympiad National Tournament. At both tournaments, student teams demonstrated their knowledge of physics, chemistry, earth sciences, biology, computer technology, mathematics, and engineering through events modeled after popular board games, TV shows, athletic competitions, and demonstrations. DuPont and the University of Delaware organized the two-day tournaments, and 80+ DuPont volunteers contributed as judges, referees, or speakers and presenters. The University of Delaware offered scholarships to all participants.

Project Accomplishments/ Results

1983: Following Science Olympiad's founding by Delaware & Michigan educators, **DuPont became a charter member.**

1995: More than two-thirds of former Science Olympians polled reported that **Science Olympiad directly influenced their career choice**, with 85% planning careers in mathematics or the sciences.

2002: DuPont hosted the **first Science Olympiad Invitational.**

2002: DuPont hosted the **Science Olympiad National Tournament in Delaware.**

Forward Plans