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**BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION
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**Westview High School Team 1 of Beaverton, Ore.,
wins competition at BPA Regional Science Bowl in Portland**

More than 300 students from western and central Oregon and Washington competed to go to the National Science Bowl and land \$85,000 in available scholarships

Portland, Ore. – Westview High School Team 1 of Beaverton, Ore., took first place in the nation’s largest regional science bowl Saturday at the University of Portland.

In all, 72 teams of high school students competed in the Bonneville Power Administration Regional Science Bowl.

After several rounds of competition in the morning, the teams were whittled to 16 that advanced into the double-elimination championship rounds. At stake? An all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., in April to compete in the Department of Energy National Science Bowl, as well as \$85,000 in scholarships to colleges and universities throughout the Northwest.

Westview High School Team 1 emerged to take the top spot in the 17th round, with Interlake High School Team of Bellevue, Wash., coming in second. Interlake High School Team 2 of Bellevue finished third.

“We really want to support all of you in your love of science – we need you as the innovators and leaders in the future of energy,” said Elliot Mainzer, BPA administrator, speaking to the high school students during a noon gathering.

For 23 straight years, BPA has hosted the Regional Science Bowl as part of its commitment to encouraging young minds to engage in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Teams, which were comprised of both public and private schools, traveled from as far as Bellingham, Wash., and Brookings, Ore., to compete. Many had practiced for the competition for months, in groups and individually.

For some teams, like Exploring Post 311 of Walla Walla, Wash., this competition represents a highlight of the year.

“This opens the kids’ eyes to something they couldn’t see at home,” said Bill Erickson, coach for Exploring Post 311 and a former BPA employee.

Erickson began outreach about a decade ago to area Walla Walla schools, specifically to encourage young students in the Latino community to stay in school and pursue a college degree. Of the 100-plus students who participate in the Exploring Post 311 activities, most are second and third-generation immigrants.

Initially, Erickson worked to bring a single team to the BPA Regional Science Bowl. The team would often stay the night in volunteer homes in Portland. Thanks to a generous, continuing grant from the utility Pacific Power in Walla Walla, Erickson now brings at least two teams. They’re able to stay in a hotel, go to a Portland-area museum and, for many, enjoy their first restaurant meal.

Erickson uses the opportunity to push his students to interact with adults and other students at the competition, going so far as to arm them with business cards to begin conversations.

“A lot of times, these students are invisible at school,” Erickson said, adding that he’s grateful to both Pacific Power and BPA for their support. “There is so much more to Science Bowl to us than answering a bunch of questions.”

Other teams found unique ways to express their unity and team spirit.

“The score is what the score is going to be, but I’m a senior, and when I graduate, I’m going to hold this memory dear,” said Philippe Josi of Tillamook High School as he sported panther pink pajamas he’d borrowed from a friend of his mother.

Each of the competitors from Tillamook bore a different, outlandish pajama set that captured the unique energy of this team led by high school science teacher and coach Nathan Sandberg. Last year the team showed up in tartan socks and flashy ties.

But make no mistake, it is science, not fashion, that binds this team together.

“There’s a certain science that surrounds everything you do,” said Bryton Dorland, a junior on the team. “This tradition will just kind of keep going. I think next year we should go with ponchos. It’ll be great.”

The top individual performers in the morning rounds – those who correctly answered the most questions – were recognized as all stars.

This year’s BPA Regional Science Bowl All Stars for high school are:

- **Richik Neogi**, Science and Technology Team 1 (28 questions)

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- **Ashwin Sah**, Jesuit High School Team 2
- **Patrick Butenhoff**, Lake Oswego High School
- **Winston Wright**, Interlake High School Team 2
- **Hunter Bosson**, West Linn Team 1
- **Abhinand Siva Prasad**, Interlake High School Team 1
- **Ian Schlegel**, Forest Grove High School Team 1
- **Max Marin**, Lakeside High School Team 1

Also recognized at the lunch celebration were the winning entrants in the first year of SciClips, a competition sponsored by Google in which competing teams created short videos that expressed their enjoyment of science. Winning teams received a \$200 gift certificate for their sponsoring school's science laboratory. Coaches for the winning teams also received a trophy in the form of an Einstein bobblehead.

The SciClips winners are:

- **Ashland Middle School**
- **Lake Oswego Junior High**
- **Xenon Science Group**
- **Parkrose High School**

For those teams not advancing into the afternoon rounds, a separate engineering competition called Full Blast Dragsters gave students a chance to test their engineering and design skills in a hands-on project.

BPA sponsors the science bowl to showcase students' talents in science, technology, engineering and math, as well as to encourage them to consider careers in these fields. This helps to ensure a future pool of engineers, scientists and innovators so critical to the energy industry.

The event is powered by more than 200 volunteers from BPA and partner agencies, many of whom have volunteered for 10 years or more.

The BPA Regional Science Bowl is sponsored by the University of Portland, Google, Drexel University Online and Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories Inc.

For more information and full results on this year's BPA Regional Science Bowl, go to: www.bpa.gov/goto/ScienceBowl. For a complete list of teams for both middle school and high school: www.bpa.gov/goto/ScienceBowlTeams.

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BPA is a nonprofit federal agency that markets renewable hydropower from federal Columbia River dams, operates three-quarters of high-voltage transmission lines in the Northwest and funds one of the largest wildlife protection and restoration programs in the world. BPA and its partners have also saved enough electricity through energy efficiency projects to power four large American cities. For more information, contact us at 503-230-5131 or visit our website at www.bpa.gov.

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