

- Special to the Daily Leader Three sixth grade boys on the lookout for a challenge decided to do a science fair project on age and memory that ended up as the Overall Division II project winner in the 2010 Kansas State Science and Engineering Fair. Their parents were amazed by their efforts and how much the boys learned during the process.



The path to success began for Shandon Classen, Dane Friedrich and Nathan Dowell at the Liberal District Science Fair where the project placed 3rd overall in the Intermediate Division. After making some improvements, the team continued on to a first place overall finish in their division at the Regional Science Fair at Seward County Community College/Area Technical School on Feb. 27. Their project was one of 20 from the Southwest Kansas communities of Liberal, Rolla and Sublette to qualify for the State Science and Engineering Fair competition on March 26 and 27 at Friends University in Wichita. Contestants endured a two and a half hour judging interview before being released to wait for the results at the awards ceremony on Saturday afternoon. Even though one of their teammates was absent from state competition due to a conflict with State Odyssey of the Mind, the team was selected as the overall winner for the Division II category consisting of 4th through 8th grade students. Competing against middle school students didn't seem to be a problem for this team of enterprising 6th graders.

The Liberal USD 480 State Science team consisted of 11 projects and 22 students from four schools in the district. All projects received at least a bronze award and represented the community in an admirable fashion.

Division I projects consisted of high school teams from grades 9 to 12. Division II consisted of grades 4 to 8 and intermediate levels competed against the middle school level.

Results of Division I: Ashley Ermann and Daniela Frausto with "The Effect of n-Halamines on Bacteria" received the Silver Award, Special award from the U.S. Metric Association, and Special award from the Society of InVitro Biology and the U.S. Army Science Award.

Morgan Todd and Lorie Rine with "The Effect of Polyphenols on E.Coli" received the Silver Award and the U.S. Army Science Award; and Ashlyn Westerman and Emily Jackson with "Pool Sense" received a Silver Award and the Naval Science Award.

In Division II, from West Middle School were Jesslin Lamont with "How Deep Should You Dig?," Gold Award, 4th place overall Division II; Holden Fitzgerald with "Ready To Takeoff," Bronze Award and U.S Army Science Award; Alissa Stoddard with "Boom, Boom, Boom," Bronze Award; and from South Middle School were Alejandra Munoz and Alexandra Gomez with

“Aerodynamic,” Silver Award and Air Force Science Award.

The four intermediate teams were all from Cottonwood Intermediate School and were Cole Evans, Keith Evans, Ashleigh Parker with “Last Bridge Standing,” Bronze Award, Naval Science Award; Caleb Brond, Jacob McCarter, Eric Gomez with “Friction Frenzy,” Bronze Award; Sarah Davis, Rebecca King with “Take Care of Your Hair,” Silver Award, and Shandon Classen, Dane Friedrich, Nathan Dowell with “Age Memorization Effect,” Gold Award, and Division II First Place winners.

This is only the third year of the Kansas State Science and Engineering Fair. The top two overall winners received all expense paid trips to the International Science Fair in San Jose, Calif. The fair is funded by donations and major supporters include Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Cooperation, NuStar Energy, Koch Industries, Exploration Place, EnergySys.

For more information, see the Web site:

<http://www.neosho.edu/kssciencefair/kansasstatescifair.htm>.