

Selection Policy for Trip to the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair

The mission of Delaware Valley Science Fairs (DVSF) is to provide a forum for young people to develop a love of science and technology through doing research projects and hopefully, move into careers in science or engineering. As a reward and incentive, we have sent the top winning students to the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF). The opportunity for them to compete, make new friends, and to see what other young scientists and engineers are doing in their respective fields has provided them with an experience that will impact their lives forever. We have found that taking teachers to ISEF has been a positive experience for the teachers also. While at ISEF, they are able to enrich their teaching skills through ‘Shop Talks’, tours and interactions with other educators from the United States and around the world. The teachers return with a broader understanding of science education, as well as being better able to guide their students in doing research projects. To better support our mission, DVSF has developed a new selection policy in sending students and teachers to ISEF. We believe that this change in policy will broaden the influence and audience impacted by this tremendous opportunity. This policy has been unanimously endorsed by the Board of Trustees.

For the **students**, we will invite the Gold, Silver and Bronze Medalists from grades 9-12, as well as the First Place Team project in grades 9-12, to compete in their respective categories at ISEF, all expenses paid.

In a major change from the past, **teachers** of the Gold and Silver Medalists will no longer automatically be invited to attend ISEF. Instead, teachers, who are interested and able to attend ISEF, must complete an application. The application process is open to all 6th through 12th grade teachers in the region serviced by DVSF. The applications will be reviewed by DVSF, and the selected teachers will be announced prior to the Event in April. This is an all expense paid trip!* All applicants chosen will be expected to: 1) assist the DVSF team in chaperoning the accompanying students during the entire week of ISEF 2) attend ‘Shop Talks’ to enhance their educational skills 3) participate in tours that extend their knowledge; and 4) after the trip, assist DVSF with workshops in their region.

Teacher applications are available on our website (www.dvsf.org) or by contacting the DVSF office at: 215-895-5840 or disstonh@drexel.edu.

* All expenses include transportation, lodging and meals. Tours, airport parking, and other personal expenses are not included.