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CONTACT: Bob Kopach, Media Relations, 312-852-0132, bob@soinc.org

EDITOR'S NOTE: For competition photos contact Bob Kopach at the above email/phone

TROY HIGH SCHOOL AND BECKENDORFF JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL TEAMS CROWNED CHAMPIONS AT 30TH ANNUAL SCIENCE OLYMPIAD NATIONAL TOURNAMENT

ORLANDO — Student teams from Troy High School in Fullerton, California and Beckendorff Junior High School in Katy, Texas took top honors at the 30th Annual Science Olympiad National Tournament at the University of Central Florida (UCF) on Saturday, May 17, 2014.

One of the nation's most prestigious science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) competitions, Science Olympiad brings together 120 winning middle school and high school teams advancing from state-level competitions this spring. Rigorous hands-on, building and lab events led by experts from government agencies, top universities and Science Olympiad state chapters cover topics in physics, epidemiology, astronomy, chemistry, meteorology and engineering.

Other **top high school (Division C) winners** at the National Tournament include:

- Second: Mounds View High School in Arden Hills, Minnesota
- Third: Harriton High School in Rosemont, Pennsylvania
- Fourth: Mira Loma High School in Sacramento, California
- Fifth: Solon High School in Solon, Ohio
- Sixth: Fayetteville-Manlius High School in Manlius, New York
- Seventh: Seven Lakes High School in Katy, Texas
- Eighth: Penncrest High School in Media, Pennsylvania
- Ninth: Grand Haven High School in Grand Haven, Michigan
- Tenth: West Windsor Plainsboro South, Princeton Junction, New Jersey

Other **top middle school (Division B) winners** at the National Tournament include:

- Second: Winston Churchill Middle School in Carmichael, California
- Third: Daniel Wright Junior High School in Lincolnshire, Illinois
- Fourth: Meads Mill Middle School in Northville, Michigan
- Fifth: Solon Middle School in Solon, Ohio
- Sixth: Muscatel Middle School in Rosemead, California
- Seventh: Magsig Middle School in Centerville, Ohio
- Eighth: Ladue Middle School in St. Louis, Missouri
- Ninth: Piedmont Middle School in Charlotte, North Carolina
- Tenth: Auburn Junior High School in Auburn, Alabama

Every high school Division C team member who won a gold medal in an event is eligible to receive a scholarship to the University of Central Florida worth up to \$30,000. The four-year scholarships are worth \$16,000 for in-state students and \$30,000 for out-of-state students who meet all admission requirements and enroll.

In addition, teams from Science and Arts Academy from Des Plaines, Illinois, and Barrington High School from Barrington, Rhode Island, earned the 2014 Lockheed Martin Spirit Awards, which recognize schools whose team members exhibit exemplary sportsmanship, teamwork, team spirit and respect that exemplify the spirit of Science Olympiad competition. (A full list of 2014 national tournament award recipients and official tournament results, including event-by-event scoring, is available at http://www.soinc.org/2014_national_tournament)

"These winning teams exemplify the best America has to offer in science, technology, engineering and math," says Gerard Putz, Science Olympiad president and co-founder. "We are proud of their achievements and know their schools and communities will welcome them home like champions."

Local sponsors of the 2014 Science Olympiad National Tournament include the University of Central Florida, Duke Energy and Revolver Maps. Science Olympiad is supported nationally by Combined Federal Campaign, ArcelorMittal, Lockheed Martin, FOX, Texas Instruments, US Air Force, US Army ROTC, Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Discovery Education 3M Young Scientists Challenge, DuPont, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Ward's Science, ACE Hardware, the NBC Universal Foundation, University of Texas Institute for Geophysics (UTIG), VWR Foundation, Academy of Model Aeronautics, Chandra X-Ray Center, Investing in Communities, MAKE Magazine, NASA and Society for Neuroscience.

Science Olympiad is a Chicago-area-based national nonprofit organization founded in 1984. It is dedicated to improving the quality of K-12 STEM education, increasing student interest in science, creating a technologically literate workforce and providing recognition for outstanding achievement by both students and teachers. More than 200,000 students on 7,000 teams from all 50 states competed in 380 regional, state and national Science Olympiad tournaments last year.

The University of Central Florida is a metropolitan research university that ranks as the second largest in the nation with nearly 60,000 students. UCF's first classes were offered in 1968. The university offers impressive academic and research environments that power the region's economic development. UCF's culture of opportunity is driven by its diversity, the Orlando environment, history of entrepreneurship, youth, relevance and energy. For more information visit <http://news.ucf.edu>.

For UCF inquiries, please contact Zenaida Gonzalez Kotala, UCF News & Info, Zenaida.Kotala@ucf.edu or 407-823-6120
For Science Olympiad inquiries, please contact Bob Kopach at bob@soinc.org or (312) 852-0132
