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**TOP U.S. STUDENTS COMPETE IN THE 2016 SCIENCE OLYMPIAD NATIONAL TOURNAMENT
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-STOUT**

MENOMONIE — The University of Wisconsin-Stout (UW-Stout) will host more than 5,000 students, educators and parents from all 50 states during the 32nd Annual Science Olympiad National Tournament on May 20-21, 2016. Recognized as 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 and lab events led by experts from government agencies, top universities, industry and Science Olympiad state chapters cover topics in robotics, physics, epidemiology, astronomy, chemistry, meteorology, coding and engineering.

“We’d like to welcome you to Wisconsin and to UW-Stout, Wisconsin’s Polytechnic University. As we celebrate the 125th anniversary of our school, we are thrilled and honored to host the 2016 Science Olympiad National Tournament,” said UW-Stout Chancellor Bob Meyer. “We hope that you and your families and friends have a truly memorable experience on campus and while in beautiful west-central Wisconsin. Congratulations to all the national qualifiers, and we wish you the best of luck.” Opening Ceremony speakers on Friday, May 20, include Dr. Gerard Putz, President and Co-Founder of Science Olympiad, Dr. Bob Meyer of UW-Stout, Hannah Herbst, winner of the 2015 Discovery Education 3M Young Scientist Challenge and a Science Olympiad team member, Teresa Mogensen of Xcel Energy and Mike Randall of UW-Madison, who will give a talk on “The Physics of Plasma.”

The University of Wisconsin-Stout will award a one-time \$1,000 UW-Stout Polytechnic Scholarship to 2016 Science Olympiad National Tournament non-trial event gold medal winners in both Divisions B and C. The 15 members of the first place teams in both Division B and C will receive a \$3,000 UW-Stout Chancellor’s Scholarship, renewable for \$1,500 for a second year, pending eligibility.

UW-Stout facilities will be home to a full day of spectator events (free and open to the public) on Saturday, May 21. Teams will compete in challenges such as Wright Stuff, a flight endurance contest powered by rubber-

band engines; Robot Arm, a precision robotics event; Mission Possible, a Rube Goldberg device using energy transfers to complete a task; and Electric Vehicle, a test of a car's speed, estimation and accuracy. On Thursday from 9am to 4pm and Friday from 9am to 3pm, the STEM Expo and Aurora Stage in Jarvis Hall and the South Lawn of the Memorial Student Center will feature a variety of hands-on corporate and UW-Stout department exhibits, including the second annual "Search for the Next ACE Hardware Science Star" video audition booth and kits and activities from Ward's Science. The tournament's major local sponsors 3M, Xcel Energy, Mayo Clinic and Stratasys will offer interactive displays and activities that will showcase how these companies positively impact the world. Visit the "3M STEM Cube Challenge" and earn points with your team to provide a charitable donation, explore alternative energies with Xcel Energy, America's largest provider of wind energy, learn about advanced surgical techniques at the Mayo Clinic exhibit and discover first-hand the amazing 3D printing capabilities being developed by Stratasys.

On April 13, 2016, champions from the 2015 Science Olympiad National Tournament were invited to Washington, DC, for President Obama's 6th Annual White House Science Fair, where winners from top STEM competitions were honored. And for the fifth year in a row, Science Olympiad welcomes a Global Ambassador Team from Japan to the National Tournament. Since 2009, Science Olympiad has worked with the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) and the Ministry for Education (MEXT) to share best practices and science content. On March 18-20, 2016, JST hosted its 5th Annual Japan High School Science Championships (JHSSC). The Grand Prize for the JHSSC competition is a trip to visit the National Tournament, where Japanese students will meet their American peers and participate as guests in selected Science Olympiad events.

Local sponsors of the 2016 Science Olympiad National Tournament include the University of Wisconsin-Stout, 3M, Xcel Energy, Stratasys, Mayo Clinic, Menomonie Army ROTC, UW-Madison, LazyBones, Wisconsin Science Olympiad, Menomonie Tourism, UW-Stout College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, UW-Stout School of Art and Design, UW-Stout Department Chemistry and Physics, UW-Stout Department of Biology, Stout University Foundation, UW-Stout Student Life Services, PepsiCo, Menomonie Lions Club, Big Dot of Happiness, Ellsworth Creamery, and Sailer's Meats. Science Olympiad is supported nationally by University of Wisconsin-Stout, ArcelorMittal, Chandra X-Ray Center and NASA, Combined Federal Campaign, DuPont and the DuPont Center for Collaborative Research and Education, DuPont Pioneer, Lockheed Martin, NBC Universal Foundation, Ward's Science, ACE Hardware, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Discovery Education 3M Young Scientists Challenge, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, Orkin, Texas Instruments, US Army ROTC, VWR Foundation, Academy of Model Aeronautics, Investing in Communities, MAKE Magazine, National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors (NAWCC), Society for Neuroscience (SfN), Yale Young Global Scholars, American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), Hardware Science, Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), Maker Education Initiative, Million Women Mentors (MWM), Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE) and The Groundwater Foundation.

Science Olympiad is a Chicago-area-based national nonprofit organization founded in 1984 and 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 225,000 students on 7,600 teams from all 50 states competed in 400 regional, state and national Science Olympiad tournaments last year.

UW-Stout, Wisconsin's Polytechnic University, has 9,535 students in 48 undergraduate majors and 23 graduate majors, including one doctoral degree. UW-Stout, established in 1891, prides itself on the success of its students in the workplace, with a graduate employment rate at or above 97 percent for recent graduates. The university was awarded the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality award in 2001.

For UW-Stout inquiries, please contact Doug Mell, Executive Director of University Communications at mell@uwstout.edu (715) 232-1198

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