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TOP U.S. STUDENTS COMPETE IN THE 2017 SCIENCE OLYMPIAD NATIONAL TOURNAMENT AT WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY

DAYTON, OH — Talented teens from across the nation as well as Japan are descending on Wright State University to battle it out in intensely competitive science and engineering projects – from Robot Arm and Hovercraft to Microbe Mission and Food Science. The prestigious 2017 Science Olympiad National Tournament, which will be held May 19-20, is expected to attract more than 5,000 students, educators and parents from all 50 states. A Global Ambassador Team from Gifu High School in Japan will participate as guests in selected events, including Helicopters, Game On and Forensics. For these bright young students, the national tournament is a launching pad. Many will go on to top universities, where they will feed their natural curiosity, advance their research skills and sharpen tools that will shape the future of science.

Wright State Provost Thomas Sudkamp said the university couldn't be more thrilled to host the best and brightest middle and high school students. "We have seen many of your great young minds at work during the invitational competitions held at Wright State University," Sudkamp said. "Your ingenuity, innovation, and sheer brilliance are beyond compare. It makes me feel very positive about the future of this country when I see such genius in the next generation."

Winners of the Science Olympiad will be offered scholarships to Wright State. All official members of the first-place team in Division B and Division C will receive a \$2,500 scholarship, renewable for four years. In both divisions, the university will also award \$1,000 scholarships to the first-place winners of each individual event, also renewable for four years. All awards are subject to admission requirements.

The school-based teams prepare and practice throughout the year, then compete in regional and state tournaments. The top 120 teams from state competitions advance to the national tournament. Rigorous hands-on 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.

"Students have been working for months to perfect their designs, build prototypes, practice lab skills and test their knowledge in topics spanning every letter in STEM," said Jenny Kopach, Science Olympiad executive director. "We can't wait to see which teams come out on top at the 2017 Science Olympiad Tournament."

Mount Vernon High School in Iowa broke a 25-year winning streak of Ames High School to win the Iowa Science Olympiad State Tournament and earn a bid to the national tournament. A home school – Treasure Valley – took the middle- and high school divisions at the Idaho Science Olympiad. Ohio teams coming to the national tournament include Tower Heights Middle School in Centerville, Mentor High School and Solon middle- and high schools.

Science Olympiad injects the university with an even more youthful electricity, with swarms of teens exploring the campus and chatting excitedly about their science projects. Conference rooms, atriums and classrooms become battlegrounds of battery buggy, egg drop and chemistry competitions.

Keynote speaker for Science Olympiad will be Wright State physics and electrical engineering professor Elliott R. Brown, endowed chair in experimental sensor physics. Brown is an expert in terahertz radiation, which consists of invisible light waves in the electromagnetic spectrum higher in frequency than microwave and lower than infrared light.

On May 18 at 9 a.m., Wright State's University Center for International Education (UCIE) has coordinated a visit for all Science Olympiad teams to the National Museum of the United States Air Force – the world's largest military aviation museum and which features a dazzling collection of historic military aircraft – followed by a special campus tour for the 16-person Japanese delegation.

Wright State is no stranger to Science Olympiads. It has hosted numerous invitational or regional Science Olympiads, which draw students primarily from Ohio. And Wright State hosted the Science Olympiad National Tournament in 2013. In hosting the national event, Wright State joins previous hosts such as the University of Chicago, George Washington University, the University of Colorado, Indiana University and the University of Illinois. The Local Presenting Sponsor of this year's Science Olympiad is the Wright State University Foundation. Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield is the Local Hosting Sponsor. The Local Supporting Sponsors are Barnes & Noble and Chartwells.

Wright State University facilities will be home to a full day of spectator events (free and open to the public) on Saturday, May 20. 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 Friday, May 19, the third annual "Search for the Next ACE Hardware Science Star" video booth will let students compete for a trip to Chicago and a chance to star in a live video. Learn more at:

<https://www.wright.edu/event/science-olympiad-2017>

Science Olympiad is supported nationally by Wright State University, ArcelorMittal, NASA's Universe of Learning Astrophysics STEM Learning & Literacy Network, 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 Scientist 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, Society for Neuroscience (SfN), Yale Young Global Scholars, American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), Digital Manufacturing and Design Innovation Institute (DMDII), 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 national nonprofit organization whose mission is to improve the quality of science education, increase interest in science, attract more students to science careers, foster teamwork, emphasize the problem-solving aspects of science and develop a technologically literate workforce. It has produced a generation of alumni who fill the hallways of top universities and corporations around the globe.

Wright State is a Carnegie-classified research university. Its main campus is 12 miles northeast of downtown Dayton, near the historic landmarks where the Wright brothers taught the world to fly. Wright State serves nearly 18,000 students, has awarded 100,000 degrees and offers 195 undergraduate, graduate, doctoral and professional degree programs through eight colleges and four schools.

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