The 2011-2012 Science Olympiad season is over and another year has quickly come and gone. This year, over 300 students from 26 schools participated in the program, spending countless hours studying and preparing for this rigorous academic competition. Not only did students develop their scientific knowledge in subjects including biology, chemistry and physics, they learned to apply their knowledge to build towers, helicopters, robots and rockets, as well as analyze real-world issues using the scientific method. “The benefits the program has are amazing,” says coach Thomas Unger from Kelvyn Park. “Besides the large amount of scientific knowledge they are learning, students are learning skills in teamwork, problem solving and critical thinking... It definitely goes beyond memorizing a bunch of scientific facts.”

Thank you to all of our coaches and students who made the 6th annual CPS Science Olympiad a success. This program would not be possible without your hard work and dedication.

Science Olympiad at CPS was launched in 2006-2007 school year and has expanded to serve 26 schools in 6 years. For more information about the program and competition, please visit the Science Olympiad website at [www.soinc.org](http://www.soinc.org) and [www.illinoisolympiad.org](http://www.illinoisolympiad.org).

---

### Thank You!

The CPS Science Olympiad Program is possible thanks to the partnerships with following organizations: National Science Olympiad, Illinois Science Olympiad, City Colleges of Chicago and University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign I-STEM. Additionally, we would like to thank all of the volunteers who helped make this program possible and made each of the tournaments a success. We would like to express our sincere appreciation to the following individuals for their invaluable contributions to the 2011-2012 CPS Science Olympiad season.

- Michele Chapman, *IL Science Olympiad State Director*
- Barbara Crum, *Math Specialist, CPS Office of STEM*
- Mike Davis, *Associate Vice Chancellor of STEM, City Colleges of Chicago*
- Barbara Dubielak-Wood, *Science Specialist, CPS Office of STEM*
- Jennifer Kopach, *National Science Olympiad*
- Peg O'Donoghue, *UIUC-I-STEM*
- Jesch Reyes, *Director of STEM, CPS*
- Joe Simmons, *IL Science Olympiad State Director*
- Scott Vessalo, *Teacher-Coordinator, Lane Tech H.S.*
On April 13th—14th, 2012, 10 Chicago Public Schools participated in the Illinois Science Olympiad State Tournament at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Campaign (UIUC). The top five placing middle and high school teams from the CPS Regional (see opposite page) sent over 150 students to UIUC to compete against the top teams across the state. Students also had the opportunity to tour the UIUC campus and learn about college and career opportunities in STEM fields.

On Friday, April 13th, students went on tours of the UIUC campus developed by the University’s I-STEM Education Initiative. College professors and researchers engaged students in scientific observation and discussion in the University’s impressive facilities, including lecture halls, labs and libraries. On Saturday, April 14th, students woke up early to participate in a full schedule of events. CPS students were among 46 Division B teams and 47 Division C teams at the tournament. Facing tough competition from across the state, seven CPS schools placed in the top 10 for individual events. Congratulations to all of our students and coaches for their incredible work at state!

CPS Students Featured on the I-STEM website:
http://www.istem.illinois.edu/news/

CPS “Top 10” Events

**Division B**

- **Decatur**
  - 7th Place, Anatomy
  - 7th Place, Optics

- **Taft**
  - 3rd Place, “Compute This”
  - 9th Place, Anatomy

- **Lane Acad. Center**
  - 6th Place, “Disease Detectives”

- **Oriole Park**
  - 3rd Place, “Keep the Heat”

**Division C**

- **Kelvyn Park**
  - 5th Place, Material Science

- **Lane Tech**
  - 3rd Place, Green Generation
  - 8th Place, Water Quality
  - 9th Place, Helicopters

- **Von Steuben**
  - 5th Place, Thermodynamics
Regional Tournament a Success!

On March 17, 2012, more than 300 Chicago Public School students, representing 26 middle and high schools, participated in the CPS Science Olympiad Regional Tournament at Wilbur Wright College. Participating student teams prepared for this rigorous academic competition for months, practicing before and after school, on early Saturday mornings, and even during their lunch breaks. Students applied their knowledge of biology, chemistry, earth science, engineering, math, physics and technology through a series of 23 events, including Crimebusters, Disease Detectives, Helicopters and Towers. Students worked in pairs for each event with each event contributing to the overall team score. Congratulations to the top six schools in each division (see “Regional Winners”) and our Spirit Award Recipients Dulles and Kelvyn Park. Thank you to all of our students, coaches, volunteers and the Illinois Science Olympiad for making the event a success!
CPS Science Olympiad Regional Tournament
At Wilbur Wright College, March 17th 2012

Photos from the Regional Competition
CPS Science Olympiad Invitational
Lane Technical High School, January 28th, 2012

Lane Tech High School hosted the CPS Invitational on January 28th, 2012, which included an intensive tower building workshop, self scheduled events and exams covering all of the Science Olympiad events. Students had an opportunity to put their knowledge to the test, hone their skills before the Regional and celebrate with an awards ceremony at the end of the day. 100% of coaches who responded to the end of year survey regarding the event “agree” or “strongly agree” that the event helped their students prepare for the Regional and say they would attend a similar event next year. As one coach commented, “The Lane Invite made a tremendous difference in forcing us to get moving and then allowed us to maintain that momentum through the regional.”

We would like to give a special thank you to Scott Vessalo, Lane Tech High School and Illinois Science Olympiad for organizing the event and student volunteers from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign for their support.

Highlights from the Invitational

CPS Science Olympiad Website: http://sciolychicago.wordpress.com/

Jennifer Axelrod
Program Manager
Office of Pathways to College and Career (OPCC)
773.553.1499
jaxelrod@cps.k12.il.us

Christine Koh
Program Coordinator,
OPCC
773.553.5152
cekoh1@cps.k12.il.us

Michael Matsey
Public Ally
Communications, OPCC
773.553.3209
mamatsey@cps.k12.il.us