

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 20, 2002

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CENTRAL OREGON STUDENTS WIN INVENTERPRISE 2002 CONTEST

How would you like to live in a domed city under the sea? Or eat food grown in an agricultural skyscraper that increases arable acreage? These are just a few of the ideas advanced by Central Oregon students to deal with future population growth.

The solutions were submitted as part of Invention Enterprise 2002, the annual creative science contest sponsored by Bend Research, Inc.

For the contest, students from throughout the region were challenged to suggest ways to cope with the ever-increasing human population. Suggested topic areas included new agricultural and manufacturing techniques, natural resource management, and land-use designs.

Some 140 students from public and private schools in Bend, Redmond, and LaPine, created more than 125 entries. The ideas—presented as models, posters, videotapes, board games, and reports—were judged on originality, feasibility, usefulness, and development of concept. Students in the first through 11th grades participated, individually and in groups.

According to the youth of Central Oregon, humans will cope with population growth by constructing more underground buildings. Cities will be arrayed closely around a central hub to preserve agricultural land in the outlying areas. Multi-layered passenger trains will connect Central Oregon's cities and towns.

Some students turned to genetic engineering to address the population crunch. One student proposed development of a new strain of garbage-eating fish. Other ideas included genetically modifying plants and animals to increase production and improve taste. One of the most radical proposals was to genetically modify humans to be much smaller, so they would take up less space and use fewer resources.

Students found answers to simpler problems as well. One proposed air-pollution absorption units be placed along crowded highways. Another thought that human waste could be reconverted to usable food. And yet another student thought that water could be better used by collecting rain run-off from homes and buildings.

Awards were given to the top entrants at each grade level. The 39 elementary and middle school winners will receive specially designed T-shirts and will be invited to a special Science Night presentation at Bend Research. In the high school category, a \$1,000 scholarship was offered this year to the top entry. Four Mountain View High School juniors—Ashley Sears, Holly Keith, Kara Thorburn, and Erin Murri—will share that prize.

This is the 11th anniversary of the Inventerprise contest, which is sponsored by Bend Research with assistance from the Bend-LaPine school district. The idea for the contest came from a 1992 conference sponsored by the Jacob Javits Foundation. The purpose of the contest was to build business-education partnerships to enrich students' educational experiences. The 43 award winners are listed below.

Grade 1

- Claire Henson, *Tumalo Elementary*
- David Hoover, *Seven Peaks Elementary*

Grade 2

- Jenna Mattox, *Elk Meadow Elementary*
- Brody Houghton, Kati Markey, *Buckingham Elementary*
- Dylan Mackey, *Westside Village Elementary*

Grade 3

- Brian Henson, *Tumalo Elementary*
- Erick Avila, Levi Rinehart, Reagan Cooper, Kyle Boyce, Sara Andre, Veronica West, *Lava Ridge Elementary*

Grade 4

- Christopher Wiley, Curtis Cooley, Nick Smith, Jessica Heckel, Steven Hodgson, Travis Pech, Andrew Hester, Maggie Talley, Jordan Navarra, Karley Gutierrez, *Lava Ridge Elementary*
- Jo Carrol, Rachel Clow, Madelyn Engel, *Highland Elementary*
- Brian Hoover, Rochelle Weber, *Seven Peaks Elementary*

Grade 5

- Austin Lacter, Conor Rowl, Gerow Hatfield, Caleb Nyberg, Steven Marquess, Stephanie Jadzak, Dana McDuff, Kevin Verdieck, Tiger Larson, *Highland Elementary*

Middle School

- Jeremy Silver, *Sunriver Prep*
- Luke Wheeler, *Seven Peaks Elementary*

High School

- Ashley Sears, Holly Keith, Kara Thorburn, Erin Murri, *Mt. View High School*

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