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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **CENTRAL OREGON STUDENTS WIN INVENTERPRISE 2003 CONTEST**

While watching young children, how many times have you heard someone ask “If only we could harness that energy....” A fourth-grader in Central Oregon has done just that with her idea to put magnets on children at play and use their movement to generate current in copper wires beneath the playground.

This is one of the many ideas advanced by Central Oregon students as part of Invention 2003, the annual creative science contest sponsored by Bend Research Inc. For the contest, students from throughout the region were challenged to tell what they did to earn Nobel Prizes in both Science and Peace.

Some 278 students from public, private, and home schools in Bend, Tumalo, and Madras created 244 entries. The ideas—presented as models, posters, videotapes, computer programs, and reports—were judged on originality, feasibility, usefulness, and development of concept. Students in the first through 12th grades participated, individually and in groups.

Awards will be presented to the top entrants at each grade level. Rebecca Leutwiler, a senior at Madras High School won a \$1,000 scholarship as the top high-school entry. Zachary McBride, a Mountain View High School senior, earned second place in the high-school division, receiving a \$250 scholarship.

The top middle-school entry, Luke Wheeler, won a digital camera for submitting the top middle-school entry. He is home-schooled in Bend. The 52 elementary and middle-school winners will receive specially designed T-shirts and will be invited to a special Science Night presentation at Bend Research.

According to the contest judges, the entries in this year’s contest were creative. Students said they received Nobel prizes for developing multi-level greenhouses to better feed the planet. Others believe that their large suction devices will rid the Earth of harmful storms, meteors, and fires. Ideas were advanced for using the cooling effects of the

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underground to make much more of the planet suitable for human habitation. A “thought extraction” helmet was also a potential Nobel award-winner.

Many students tackled ways to address energy needs. One invented new methods for harnessing geothermal energy involving lava gas bubbles. Another proposed a device that converts sound to energy. The use of bioengineered chloroplasts to stock a living solar panel was proposed by high school winner Rebecca Leutwiler.

Students came up with even more bioengineering breakthroughs. One proposed that bacteria be engineered to consume nuclear waste. A second-grader has engineered pellets that, when thrown into an ocean oil slick, consume the oil. Others put bacteria to work on the world’s garbage.

This is the 12th anniversary of the Inventerprise contest, which is sponsored by Bend Research with assistance from the Bend-LaPine school district and Central Oregon Community College. 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 54 award winners are listed below.

## **ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

### **Grade 1**

- Jules Ginsparg, Hannah Buehler, Joey Reitz, Cody Yetter, Peter Jacobson, Ryan Schluter, Blake Snow, Jojo Bond, *Highland School (Bend)*.

### **Grade 2**

- Max Tague, Kadyne Mauldin, Will Mayer, *Highland School (Bend)*
- Claire Henson, *Tumalo Elementary (Tumalo)*

### **Grade 3**

- Claire Mastrangelo, Connor Olsen, CJ Fraley, *Highland School (Bend)*.
- Katie Smith, Gerrad Smith, Douglas Bruce, Haley Brooks, Sarah Martino, Jacob Talley, Christopher Benton, *Lava Ridge Elementary (Bend)*
- Jenna Mattox, *Elk Meadow Elementary (Bend)*

### **Grade 4**

- Zach Hoskins, Amalia Grijalva, Danny Verdieck, Owen Buehler, Emily Dudley, Zoe McAlear, Claire Seibold, Calvin Asher, *Highland School (Bend)*
- Kyle Boyce, Courtney Chamberlen, Kyle Mattox, Caleb Cockrum, Jacob Stoneking, Sara Andre, Falisha Stinchcomb, Reagan Cooper, *Lava Ridge Elementary (Bend)*.

### **Grade 5**

- John Nyaradi, Haley Keilor, Zac Stewart, Trevor Hayden, Kristin Cahalane, Kendall Jarvis, Hannah Noble, *Highland School (Bend)*

- Brian Hoover, Rochelle Weber, *Seven Peaks Elementary (Bend)*

**MIDDLE SCHOOL**

- Luke Wheeler, *Home School (Bend)*
- Kellie Schueler, Naomi Wright, Garrett Skelton, *Cascade Middle School (Bend)*

**HIGH SCHOOL**

- Rebecca Leutwiler, *Madras High School (Madras)*
- Zachary McBride, *Mountain View High School (Bend)*

Winners are also listed on the Inventerprise website at <http://www.cocc.edu/inventerprise>.

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