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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CENTRAL OREGON STUDENTS WIN INVENTERPRISE 2009 CONTEST

It's impossible to predict how climate change will play out, but if the world's deserts proliferate, Central Oregon students are ready.

This month, they unveiled their innovative ideas to help humanity live in or near deserts in the Invention 2009 science contest, earning cash and other prizes for their efforts.

About 700 students from 23 Central Oregon schools submitted 600 entries in the annual creative science contest, which is now in its 18th year. It is sponsored by Bend Research, with help from COCC and Bend-La Pine schools.

Four high-school students each won \$375 for their ideas, which judges deemed equally worthy. The winning students and their ideas were

- Nick Loeffler, a Summit High sophomore, proposed a water-condensing unit for desert installations that uses refrigeration technology to condense water from the desert air.
- Jonathan Marcotte, a Madras High sophomore, designed a rammed-earth hexagonal village for desert living.
- Brooke Walsh, a Summit High sophomore, invented a blind system for helping to cool buildings while generating energy.
- Max L'Etoile, a Summit High freshman, solved desert agriculture problems by growing crops underground to take advantage of cooler, moister environment.

Henry Mensing of Cascade Middle School submitted the winning middle-school entry. His project used pyramidal glass enclosures over plant communities to trap and collect water for reuse. For his prize, he will choose among an iPod®, a mountain bike, a digital camera, and a season pass to Mount Bachelor.

**Bend Research Inc.
Inventerprise 2009 Winners**

In addition to the students in upper grades, hundreds of students in lower grades submitted entries, either individually or in teams of up to 3. Students at each grade level will receive prizes for their efforts along with an invitation to a special science night program held in their honor at the Bend Research laboratories in Tumalo.

In this year's contest, many students proposed ideas for underground living to take advantage of the much cooler subterranean environment. Others wanted to use the cooler below-surface earth to cool above-ground structures. Another student proposed a sand- and air-driven turbine as a way to improve efficiency over a turbine driven only by wind.

Desert clothing got the attention of some students, who proposed a jacket that cools overnight to provide relief from the desert heat during the heat of the day. A third-grader built a model of a shirt with water-collection capabilities, while another student designed an entire suit along similar lines.

Winners at each grade level, and the schools they attend, are listed below. Additional information can be found at www.cocc.edu/inventerprise.

Inventerprise 2009 Winners

Kindergarten/Grade 1

Gabriel Kizans, Jaiden Olstad, Stefanie Bartels, Thomas Kinney, Jahleel Roberts, Isabella Boyd, Zane Lancaster, Azlyn Lawless, Nolan Oliver, Elijah Krause, *Westside Village Magnet School, Bend.*

Emily Rose, Piper Brannin, *MorningStar Christian School, Bend.*

Tanner Taylor, *Pine Ridge Elementary, Bend.*

Grade 2

Paris Hurzeler, Jaide Summers, *Westside Village Magnet School, Bend.*

Colby Parsons, Brogan Petterson, Jayden Chamberlain, Ethan Martin, Simon Rhett, Sophia Silva, Amanda Ehrlich, *Sisters Elementary, Sisters.*

Grade 3

Christopher Mathis, Josi Price, Colby Darnell, Aaron Park, Tucker Higgins, Zabel Thomas, Gabe Satterlee, Ki Sears, Alex Baker, Owen Goodrich, Christian Kim, *Tom McCall Elementary, Redmond.*

Jackson Rheuben, Jack Berg, Trey Stadel, David Novotny, Keaton Green, *Sisters Elementary, Sisters.*

Ashleen Smith, Jaquelyn Gade-Hernandez, *Buff Elementary, Madras.*

Thelonius Luzell, Abby Barrier, *Westside Village Magnet School, Bend.*

Grade 4

Wyatt Gross, Lily Harrang, Danielle Thomas, Hanah Fierstos, Kilani Fierstos, Ebin Maddox, Lauryn Benge, Daniel Collins, Eric Beal, Jessie McElroy, *Tom McCall Elementary, Redmond.*

Tray Conley, Micah Cupp, *Vern Patrick Elementary, Redmond.*

Sierra Freihoefer, *Westside Village Magnet School, Bend.*

Rylee McConnell, Casey Mathews, Maya Foster-Wexler, Alex Moore, Kevin Chen, Emmaline Fievet, Hailey Nelson, Madeline Reitz, Jack Lange, *Juniper Elementary, Bend.*

Lia Keener, Mallory Roberts, *Lava Ridge Elementary, Bend.*

Grade 5

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Inventerprise 2009 Winners**

Jacob Rasmussen, Billy Morton, Jake Marcus, Alex Heisler, Kiarra Saito-Beckman, Ryan Brogley, Spencer Schmitt, Quintin McCoy, Taig Salt, Aleko Hovekamp, *Juniper Elementary, Bend.*
Maia Denzler, *Westside Village Magnet School, Bend.*
Rose Algers, Nicole Wangler, Skyler Larsen, *Bear Creek Elementary, Bend.*

**Bend Research Inc.
Inventerprise 2009 Winners**

Middle School

Grand prize winner: Henry Mensing, *Cascade Middle, Bend*

Zoe Roth, Cameron Miller, Evan Heaton, Molly Burke, Joshua Reed, Josephine Bond, Katie Ryan, *Cascade Middle School, Bend.*

Rijen Shonka, Pavel Shonka, *Pilot Butte Middle School, Bend.*

Matthew Marcotte, Chelsea Buck, Mikayla Weinke, Danielle Schmaltz, Ingrid Sanchez, George Mendazona, *Jefferson County Middle School, Madras.*

Ian Churchill, *Seven Peaks School, Bend.*

High School

Nick Loeffler, Brooke Walsh, Max L'Etoile, *Summit High, Bend.*

Jonathan Marcotte, *Madras High, Madras.*