

# BPA NEWS

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CONTACT: Gamez Gavin, BPA, 503-230-5908 or [gdgamez@bpa.gov](mailto:gdgamez@bpa.gov);

Isabelle Williams, BPA, 503-230-5196 or [igwilliams@bpa.gov](mailto:igwilliams@bpa.gov)

## **Mountain View High School wins 32<sup>nd</sup> annual BPA Regional Science Bowl**

*Mountain View High School emerged victorious among 38 teams in a STEM-ulating competition securing their spot in the National Science Bowl in Washington D.C.*

**Portland, Ore.**—After a day of hard-fought battles, Mountain View High School team 1 of Vancouver, Wash. faced off against Lake Oswego High School team 1 of Lake Oswego, Ore to win BPA's 32<sup>nd</sup> annual Regional Science Bowl on Saturday at the University of Portland.

Mountain View High School team 1 came out in first place, securing their spot in the National Science Bowl in Washington D.C., taking place at the end of April. Lake Oswego High School team 1 took second place, while Westview High School of Beaverton, Ore. team took third. Lincoln High School team 1 of Portland Ore. rounded out the final competitions coming in fourth.

The 38 teams were from public and private high schools across western Washington and Oregon, who competed in the nation's second largest regional science bowl.

On Feb. 3, BASIS Independent School team 1 from Bellevue, Wash., came in first at the regional middle school science bowl competition. Redmond Middle School team 1 took second place with Evergreen Middle School team following in third – both schools hailing from Redmond, Wash.

BASIS joins Mountain View to compete in their respective divisions at the U.S. Department of Energy's National Science Bowl in Washington D.C.

The bowl is an intense contest of wits in a round-robin, trivia format showcases student's talents in areas including science, technology, biology, engineering and math.

Staff for the competition is comprised of mainly BPA staff and previous competitors who volunteer to support and encourage a new generation of scientific minds. BPA sees this competition as an opportunity to encourage competitors' passion for STEM-based careers and to nurture future innovators who may one day consider professions in the energy industry.



Dorothy Copeland, a repeat Science Bowl volunteer since 1993, said while the competition has changed over the past 30 years, the academic prowess and drive of the students continues to drive her participation.

“It was much different then,” Copeland said. “We were doing it in downtown Portland, and we were walking between buildings with the students. My job back then was team guides, so I was taking schools in between buildings. They assigned me a school and I would spend the day with them.”

Like many volunteers, Copeland includes the younger generation in her participation as much as possible to inspire their love of STEM.

“The kids just really impress me every year,” she said. “It’s so much fun to watch them. It seems like it comes so easily for them. I bring my grandkids with me, and they love it every year.”

Mahadevan Subramanian, a first-time volunteer at Science Bowl, participated in science bowl as a high school student, having last competed pre-pandemic in 2019. He said even though his last experience competing was before the COVID-19 outbreak, BPA and student participants make the competition feel familiar.

“I think BPA and the students have done a really good job of making the competition feel like it did back when we competed before COVID,” said Subramanian. According to him, one thing that never changes is the ever-impressive skill of the student competitors.

“The kids are so smart,” he said. “I could answer none of the questions that they are answering now. They are going so fast.”

As Science Bowl encouraged Subramanian to pursue science in higher education, he hopes that he can inspire students to do the same through his participation in the event.

“It’s really cool to see now, as a volunteer, how much work goes into this competition,” he said. “I also love getting kids interested in science. This is why I studied biology in college because I really enjoyed Science Bowl.”

## **About BPA**

*The Bonneville Power Administration, headquartered in Portland, Oregon, is a nonprofit federal power marketer that sells wholesale, carbon-free hydropower from 31 federal dams in the Columbia River Basin. It also markets the output of the region’s only nuclear plant. BPA delivers this power to more than 140 Northwest electric utilities, serving millions of consumers and businesses in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, western Montana and parts of California, Nevada, Utah and Wyoming. BPA also owns and operates more than 15,000 circuit miles of high-voltage power lines and 261 substations, and provides transmission service to more than 300 customers. In all, BPA provides nearly a third of the power generated in the Northwest. To mitigate the impacts of the federal dams, BPA implements a fish and wildlife program that includes working with its partners to make the federal dams safer for fish passage. It also pursues cost-effective energy savings and operational solutions that help maintain safe, affordable, reliable electric power for the Northwest. [www.bpa.gov](http://www.bpa.gov)*

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