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**BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Middle school teams from Bellevue, Wash., and Beaverton, Ore.,
advance from BPA Regional Science Bowl to national competition**

*More than 300 students from western and central Oregon and Washington
competed Saturday at the University of Portland*

Portland, Ore. – The University of Portland bustled with activity Saturday as 66 teams of middle school students descended on the campus to compete in the nation’s largest regional science bowl.

After 17 rounds of competition, Science Infinity Club of Bellevue, Wash., and Stoller Middle School Team 1 of Beaverton, Ore., emerged from the crowd to claim the top spots and an opportunity to compete in the Department of Energy National Science Bowl in April.

Xenon Science Group of Bellevue, Wash., took third in the competition.

Typically, the regional science bowl ends with one winning team advancing to the national competition. However, a final-round call based on a new national rule being implemented for the first time Saturday could have yielded a victory for either finalist. Less than 10 points separated Science Infinity Club and Stoller Middle School Team 1 when the final buzzer sounded.

“We talked with the Department of Energy about our dilemma – both teams had competed so hard and well and showed an infectious passion for science and math and an understanding well beyond their years. Either team would represent our region well,” said Christy Adams, the BPA Regional Science Bowl coordinator. “In the end, we worked with nationals on a creative solution that allowed us to put the kids first and foremost. For this year, we will send two teams from our region to compete at finals in the National Science Bowl: Science Infinity Club to represent western Washington and Stoller Middle School to represent the state of Oregon in the National Science Bowl.”

Additionally, Adams said that volunteers from the BPA Regional Science Bowl provided feedback on the new rule that will result in clearer language for future competitions.

For 23 straight years, the Bonneville Power Administration has hosted the BPA Regional Science Bowl as part of its commitment to encouraging young minds to engage in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

“I was just blown away by all of you – the talent I saw, the caliber of questions – you all are amazing,” said Richard Génecé, the vice president of energy efficiency for BPA, delivering the keynote address to students gathered at the event.

Teams, which were comprised of both public and private schools, traveled from as far as Republic, Wash., and Ashland, Ore., to compete. Many had practiced for the competition for months, in groups and individually.

The morning kicked off with a round-robin contest of eight rounds that whittled the teams from 66 to 16. The advancing teams then spent the afternoon competing in a nine-round, double-elimination contest. For each match, teams of four students sat opposite each other, using buzzers to field a variety of science-based questions.

The top individual performers in the morning rounds – those who correctly answered the most questions – were recognized as all stars.

This year’s BPA Regional Science Bowl All Stars are:

- **Colin Tang**, Xenon Science Group
- **Rupert Li**, Cedar Park Team 1
- **Radnyee Manisha**, Washington Middle School Team 1
- **Alex Moore**, Valley Catholic Middle School Team 2
- **Cedric Wong**, Stoller Middle School Team 2
- **Jacob Sharkansky**, Village Home 1
- **Kevin Shen**, Stoller Middle School Team 1

Also recognized at the lunch celebration were the winning entrants in the first year of SciClips, a competition sponsored by Google in which competing teams created short videos that expressed their enjoyment of science. Winning teams received a \$200 gift certificate for their sponsoring school’s science laboratory. Coaches for the winning teams also received a trophy in the form of an Einstein bobble head.

The SciClips winners are:

- **Ashland Middle School**
- **Lake Oswego Junior High**
- **Xenon Science Group**

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For those teams not advancing into the afternoon rounds, a separate engineering competition designed and conducted by teachers from Lake Oswego Junior High, called Full Blast Dragsters, gave students a chance to test their engineering and design skills in a hands-on project.

BPA sponsors the science bowl to showcase students' talents in science, technology, engineering and math, as well as to encourage them to consider careers in these fields. This helps to ensure a future pool of engineers, scientists and innovators so critical to the energy industry.

A separate competition will be held on Saturday for high school students with 68 teams signed up from western and central Oregon and Washington. They'll not only compete for the trip to Washington, D.C., and the national science bowl, but also for potential scholarships. Several colleges and universities throughout the region have set aside a total of \$85,000 in scholarships that members of the top three teams may claim.

The event is powered by more than 200 volunteers from BPA and partner agencies, many of whom have volunteered for 10 years or more.

The BPA Regional Science Bowl is sponsored by the University of Portland, Google, Drexel University Online and Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories Inc.

BPA REGIONAL SCIENCE BOWL 2014 – High School

Where: Franz Hall, University of Portland, Portland, Ore.

When: Feb. 1, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Notes: The event is free to attend and open to the public. Championship rounds begin at 4 p.m. in Buckley Center Auditorium.

For more information and full results on this year's BPA Regional Science Bowl, go to: www.bpa.gov/goto/ScienceBowl. For a complete list of teams for both middle school and high school: www.bpa.gov/goto/ScienceBowlTeams.

BPA is a nonprofit federal agency that markets renewable hydropower from federal Columbia River dams, operates three-quarters of high-voltage transmission lines in the Northwest and funds one of the largest wildlife protection and restoration programs in the world. BPA and its partners have also saved enough electricity through energy efficiency projects to power four large American cities. For more information, contact us at 503-230-5131 or visit our website at www.bpa.gov.

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