

Hi Distinguished Colleagues and ITQ/NSF/CSP Fellows,

On Saturday, May 8, 2004, 9:30 A.M., we will once again host the Improving Teacher Quality/National Science Foundation/California Science Project Student Research Poster Symposium in the Grand Salon at California State University, Northridge.

Participating teachers and their students, will receive by mail after the event, award certificates and, supplies permitting, program teacher whose students present, will receive a certificate of recognition personally signed by Nobel laureate Francis Crick. Dr. Crick, together with James Watson and Maurice Wilkins, received the Nobel Prize for discovery of the molecular structure of DNA, considered by many to be the most important discovery in the life sciences of all time.

We also plan, through the mail, to award a few personally signed copies of one of Dr. Crick's books, to teachers whose students presented the most top quality posters (or top posters with many student co-authors).

HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO DO TO PARTICIPATE:

1) By April 20 latest, I need to have an abstract of each student presentation. The abstract should be ready for possible publication in the Journal of Student Research Abstracts, Pearson Education, Publisher. Email abstract to steven.oppenheimer@csun.edu or mail to: Dr. Steve Oppenheimer, Biology, Cal State Northridge, 18111 Nordhoff St., Northridge, CA 91330-8303.

2) The abstract needs to begin with a TITLE IN CAPS. On the next line give the student(s) full names, first name first, followed by your name with (teacher) in parentheses, school name, school mailing address with City, State and Zip. Skip a line and provide the text. It is best to begin with the problem or hypothesis, the methods, the results and conclusions. The best abstracts and posters include many repeats of experiments and many control and experimental samples. In addition to serving as confirmation of your student(s) poster(s), the abstracts will be considered for publication in the next issue (if there is one) of the Journal of Student Research Abstracts. You can present a poster on an already published abstract or one now in press in the 2004 issue. Just write on abstract: ALREADY PUBLISHED OR IN PRESS.

3) The best posters generally follow the format of the abstracts above. You could bring poster easels, as we can not guarantee that we will have enough easels in the Grand Salon. All posters must be set up in the Grand Salon between 9:30 and 10 A.M. on Saturday, May 8. The Symposium will begin promptly at 10 A.M. and last until about 1 P.M. Students will stand by their posters and answer questions on their work posed by the audience.

4) Park in Lot G4. Turn from Nordhoff onto Zelzah and you'll see Lot G4. Then walk West into the University Student Union and ask for the Grand Salon which is on the far West end of the Student Union property.

It's an honor to work with you. I believe that our program, sponsored by the Improving Teacher Quality program, National Science Foundation, California Science Project, Center for Cancer and Developmental Biology, College of Science and Mathematics, Department of Biology, and the Office of Graduate Studies and Research at California State University, Northridge, with support of the Los Angeles Unified School District, may be the largest high quality K-12 student research effort in the world.

Very truly yours,
Steve Oppenheimer