The Intel Science Talent Search, a program of Society for Science & the Public, is the nation's oldest and most prestigious pre-college science and math competition. It recognizes and empowers the most promising young scientists in the United States who are creating the technologies and solutions that will positively impact people's lives.

Starting this year, the Intel Science Talent Search will feature a new awards structure that features triple the top award money and new award categories in order to further reward young scientists and recognize the richness of how they contribute to improving and enriching everyday life. In place of the competition's previous $100,000 top prize, three Medal of Distinction awards of $150,000 each will be awarded to students who show exceptional scientific potential in three areas: Basic Research, Global Good, and Innovation. There are also three second-place awards of $75,000, and three third-place awards of $35,000. Each finalist receives at least $7,500.

Intel believes that young people are the key to future innovation, and a solid foundation in science, technology, engineering and math combined with skills such as critical thinking, collaboration and digital literacy are crucial for their success. That is why Intel assumed title sponsorship of the Intel Science Talent Search 17 years ago, and has increased annual awards and scholarships from $205,000 to $1.6 million to provide the opportunities and resources that students need to become our next American inventors and change-makers.

Intel Science Talent Search 2015

This year, 1,844 high school seniors entered the Intel Science Talent Search, hailing from 460 high schools in 41 states and Puerto Rico, as well as five American and international high schools overseas. Their original research projects cover all disciplines of science, including engineering, mathematics, biochemistry, materials science, physics, behavioral science, and medicine and health. Entrants were judged on their originality and creative thinking as well as a broader measure of their achievement and leadership, both inside and outside the classroom.

On Jan. 7, this field of entrants was narrowed to 300 semifinalists from 184 high schools in 32 states, as well as one American high school and one international high school overseas. Each semifinalist receives a $1,000 award from Intel with an additional $1,000 going to his or her school, resulting in $600,000 in total semifinalist awards.

From the pool of 300 semifinalists, 40 finalists were selected on Jan. 21. The finalists receive an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C. from March 5-11, during which they will compete for more than $1 million in awards provided by the Intel Foundation.
This year’s Intel Science Talent Search finalists represent 36 high schools in 18 states. This year, California and New York are the states with the highest number of young innovators, with 11 and eight finalists respectively. Following this, New Jersey has four; Oregon and Maryland have two each; and Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Massachusetts, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin have one finalist each.

These finalists are engaged in cutting-edge scientific research and the creation of new technology to address global challenges. This year, research projects include a low-cost, portable device to detect blood diseases and parasites; an advanced encryption system with potential applications in cybersecurity; new research on the use of quantum dot solar cells as an alternative energy source; and a machine learning-based method to identify promising drugs to combat cancer, tuberculosis and Ebola.

While in Washington, D.C., the finalists will undergo a rigorous judging process, interact with leading scientists, display their research for the public at the National Geographic Society and meet with national leaders. Winners will be announced at a black-tie, invitation-only gala award ceremony at the National Building Museum on March 10.

To get the latest Intel Science Talent Search news, visit www.intel.com/newsroom/education, and join the conversation on Facebook and Twitter.

A Storied History

Science Talent Search alumni have gone on to receive more than 100 of the world’s most coveted science and math honors, including eight Nobel Prizes, five National Medals of Science, two Fields Medals, 12 MacArthur Foundation Fellowships and even an Academy Award for Best Actress.

Society for Science & the Public, a nonprofit organization dedicated to public engagement in scientific research and education, has owned and administered the Science Talent Search since its inception in 1942. Since beginning its partnership with Society for Science & the Public in 1998, Intel has increased the competition’s total annual awards from $205,000 to $1.6 million.

In 2008, the Intel Foundation committed $120 million over the next 10 years to fund the company’s historical commitment to the Intel Science Talent Search and Intel International Science and Engineering Fair, a sister program and the world’s largest high school science competition. The support also added a robust youth outreach program plus an online science community and science fair alumni and mentoring network.

In January 2009, Intel and Society for Science & the Public launched a nationwide search to find alumni of the Science Talent Search. Linking Science Talent Search alumni will provide new resources and an inspiring community of peers for future young scientists.

Intel's Commitment to Math and Science Education

Intel believes that young people are the key to solving global challenges, and a solid math and science foundation combined with skills such as critical thinking, collaboration and digital literacy are crucial for their success. Over the past decade alone, Intel and the Intel Foundation have invested more than $1 billion and Intel employees have donated close to 4 million hours toward improving education in more than 100 countries.

To learn more about Intel’s education initiatives, visit www.intel.com/education.
About Society for Science & the Public

Society for Science & the Public (SSP) is one of the nation's oldest non-profit membership organizations dedicated to public engagement in science and science education. Established in 1921, SSP is a leading advocate for the understanding and appreciation of science and the vital role it plays in human advancement. Through its acclaimed competitions focusing on science education and innovation, including the Intel Science Talent Search, the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair, and the Broadcom MASTERS, and its award-winning Science News magazine and family of media properties, Society for Science & the Public is committed to inform, educate and inspire.

For more information about SSP and its work, please visit www.societyforscience.org, and follow SSP on Facebook and Twitter. Become a member of the Society at societyforscience.org/join-society.

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