



Intel Science Talent Search: Inspiring Tomorrow's Innovators

An annual competition to identify the nation's most promising scientists of the future, the Intel Science Talent Search (Intel STS), a program of Society for Science & the Public, celebrates the best and brightest young minds as they compete for one of the most prestigious honors bestowed on high school seniors in the United States. The Science Talent Search, America's oldest and most distinguished science competition, celebrated its tenth year of Intel sponsorship in 2008 and in October 2008, Intel extended its commitment to the program through 2016.

Every year, over 1,600 high school seniors enter the Intel Science Talent Search with original research projects from a range of mathematical, engineering and scientific disciplines. This field of entrants is narrowed to 300 semifinalists, and then to 40 finalists, who travel to Washington, D.C. every March to compete for more than \$500,000 in awards and scholarships. In addition a total of \$300,000 is awarded among the schools of the 300 semifinalists to support their science and math resources.

The finalists' innovative ideas often present potential solutions to issues that have stumped scientists for years. [Projects at the 2009 competition](#) included: an investigation on climate change based on the measurement of boron isotopes in fossilized brachiopod shells, the development of an autonomous search-and-rescue robot able to operate in conditions unsafe for humans, an examination of gender influence on stem cell transplants, and studies on potential treatments for neurodegenerative diseases.

"There is nobility in figuring out how the universe works and there is even greater nobility in using that knowledge for the benefit of all of society." - Energy Secretary Steven Chu, addressing the student participants at Intel STS 2009

A Storied History

Over the past 67 years, Science Talent Search participants have gone on to win some of the world's most esteemed academic honors, including seven Nobel Prizes, three National Medals of Science, 10 MacArthur Foundation Fellowships, and two Fields Medals. Roger Tsien, the first-place winner of STS in 1968, won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2008.

In the last 10 years, Intel has increased the total annual awards and scholarships from \$207,000 to \$1.25 million. In 2009, more than 1600 applicants from 495 schools representing 46 states, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and 5 overseas schools entered Intel STS. Eric Larson, of Eugene, Ore., won the top award, a \$100,000 scholarship for his research project classifying mathematical objects called fusion categories. William Sun, of Chesterfield, Mo., placed 2nd and received a \$75,000 scholarship for his biochemistry project that studied the effects of a recently discovered molecule that could potentially help efforts to treat bacterial infections or prevent neurodegenerative disorders such as Alzheimer's disease and Philip Streich, of Platteville, Wis., received a \$50,000 scholarship for his chemistry project on carbon nanotubes that may lead to the development of ultra-strong materials and ultra-fast nano-electronics. Philip's work has resulted in five provisional patent filings.

Society for Science & the Public (formerly Science Service), a nonprofit organization dedicated to public engagement in scientific research and education, owns and has administered the STS since its inception in 1942.

The Road to Washington

Every year in November, top high school seniors from across the United States submit research projects to the Intel Science Talent Search. These projects are judged on their originality and creative thinking as well as a broader measure of the students' achievement, both inside and outside the classroom (and lab). Every January, 300 students are chosen as semifinalists, each of whom receives a \$1,000 scholarship from the Intel Foundation. Semifinalists' schools also receive \$1,000 from the Intel Foundation. Forty of these 300 semifinalists are then chosen as finalists.

In March, finalists spend a week in Washington, D.C., where they undergo a rigorous judging process, meet with national leaders – often the United States President or Vice President – interact with leading scientists and display their research at the renowned National Academy of Sciences. Winners are announced at a black-tie gala at the end of the week, celebrating the accomplishments of these 40 extraordinary young men and women.

The top prize is a \$100,000 four-year scholarship. The second-place finalist receives a \$75,000 scholarship, and the third-prize winner gets a \$50,000 scholarship. Fourth- through sixth-place finalists each receive a \$25,000 scholarship; seventh- through tenth-prize winners each receive a \$20,000 scholarship. In addition to the top 10 awards, each of the finalists participating in the Intel Science Talent Search will receive a \$5,000 scholarship and a new laptop with the latest Intel® technology.

To learn more about the Intel Science Talent Search, please visit <http://www.intel.com/education/sts/>.

Intel's Commitment to Math and Science Education

Intel believes all students, everywhere, deserve to have the tools they need to become the next generation of innovators. Intel added sponsorship of the Intel Science Talent Search to the extensive Intel Education Initiative portfolio in 1998 to spotlight the need to improve math and science education in the United States. Since then, Intel has increased the total annual awards and scholarships from \$207,000 to \$1.25 million, and reinvigorated the competition by adding awards for the schools and introducing technology to the experience, through such program elements as laptop awards for all 40 finalists.

Intel's commitment to education extends far beyond Intel Science Talent Search: from local schools to global universities, Intel works to help improve the quality of education around the world. Over the past decade alone, Intel® has invested more than \$1 billion in cash and in-kind contributions to help teachers teach, students learn and universities innovate – particularly in the areas of math, science and technology.

To learn more about Intel's commitment to education, please visit www.intel.com/education.

To learn more about Intel, the world leader in silicon innovation, please visit www.intel.com.

About the Society for Science & the Public

Society for Science & the Public (SSP) is one of the nation's oldest non-profit 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 education competitions and its award-winning magazine, *Science News*, Society for Science & the Public is committed to inform, educate, and inspire.

To learn more about SSP, please visit www.societyforscience.org.

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