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Northwest teams place second, fourth in National Science Bowl
*Westview High School of Beaverton, Ore., and the Science Infinity Club
of Bellevue, Wash., rank among nation's best Science Bowl teams*

Portland, Ore. – A pair of winning teams from BPA's Regional Science Bowl delivered stellar performances at the [Department of Energy's National Science Bowl](#), April 24-28 in Washington, D.C. A team of students from Westview High School in Beaverton, Ore., accomplished a major feat by placing second overall in the nationwide high school competition. And the Science Infinity Club of Bellevue, Wash., finished fourth in the middle school competition. Both teams advanced to the national competition after winning the BPA Regional Science Bowl in Portland, Ore., earlier this year.

"This is great news for these students, their schools and our region," says BPA Administrator Elliot Mainzer. "Westview and the Science Infinity Club exemplify a commitment to science and learning that everyone in the Northwest should be extremely proud of."

The National Science Bowl brings together thousands of middle and high school students from across the country in a fast-paced question-and-answer competition over four days. Each team is composed of four students, an alternate and a coach. In the quiz-show-style competition, students answer multiple choice and short answer questions that test their knowledge in many scientific disciplines, including astronomy, biology, chemistry, energy, mathematics, physics, earth science, computer and general science. (Click [here](#) to view sample questions.)

More than 9,300 high school students and 5,200 middle school students throughout the nation competed in regionals. Those teams that won their regional competition qualified for nationals.

The team of five students from Westview – Abhijit Mudigonda, Eddie Wang, Vincent Zhuang, Chris Younkins and David Wang – beat 67 other teams to make it to the finals in the National Building Museum where it narrowly lost to three-time champion Mira Loma High School of Sacramento, Calif. The Science Infinity Club team – Dhruvik Parikh, Rahul Chaliparambil, Veena Kollipara, Neha Nagvekar and Sagarika Samavedi –

finished fourth out of a field of 48 middle school teams.

Renuka Vallarapu, coach of the Science Infinity Club team, says competing with some of the smartest young minds from every corner of the nation was a tremendous experience. “The kids and I will cherish the memories for the rest of our lives,” she says.

With its second-place finish, Westview receives a five-day guided tour of Great Salt Lake Park, Yellowstone National Park and Grand Teton National Park. And both Westview and Science Infinity Club also win \$1,000 for their school’s science department. For complete results of the high school competition, click [here](#). For the middle school results, click [here](#).

“This is an absolutely phenomenal accomplishment by these students and their coaches,” says Science Bowl coordinator Christy Adams of BPA. “As tough as our regional competition is, the nationals are 10 times tougher as you’re facing off against the best teams across the country. We are so proud of these teams!”

Both teams earned an all-expenses-paid trip to nationals after winning the BPA-sponsored regional science bowls in late January and early February. On Feb. 1, Westview earned its trip to nationals after outwitting a field of 72 teams. And the Science Infinity Club was the last team standing at the middle school competition Jan. 25, which included 66 teams. The top three teams in the region’s high school division – Westview and two teams from Interlake High School in Bellevue, Wash. – were also offered up to \$85,000 in scholarships to Northwest colleges and universities.

Teams from the Northwest have regularly finished in the top tier at nationals. In 2011, Shahala Middle School of Vancouver, Wash., placed second and Portland’s Sunset High School came in third.

BPA has hosted its [Regional Science Bowl](#) for 23 years as part of its commitment to encourage young minds to engage in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, as well as consider careers in these fields and the energy industry. It has become the largest regional science bowl in country, with more than 600 students from public and private schools in western Washington and western and central Oregon competing for a berth in DOE’s National Science Bowl. The BPA Regional Science Bowl is sponsored by the University of Portland, Google, Drexel University Online and Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories Inc.

Click on the links below for photos from DOE's National Science Bowl.

- [Westview High School and Mira Loma High School in the finals, April 28](#)
- [Westview High School team with Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz](#)
- [Science Infinity Club team](#)
- [Science Infinity Club competing](#)

About BPA

BPA is a not-for-profit 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 pursue cost-effective energy savings in all sectors of the economy and together they have saved enough electricity through energy efficiency projects to power four large American cities. Through its community and education program, BPA sponsors a variety of activities and projects that support science, technology, engineering and math education, energy literacy and environmental stewardship. bpa.gov

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