

## **New York Tops Other States in Science Award Semifinals**

By CAROLINE PALMER

(NY Times 1/12/2006)

Students from New York State dominated the list of semifinalists announced yesterday in the Intel Science Talent Search at Stuyvesant High School.

New York had 140 of 300 semifinalists, followed by California with 22, Texas with 18 and Maryland with 15.

At the ceremony, principals from New York schools took turns announcing the semifinalists.

While Bronx Science, Hunter College High School and Stuyvesant made strong showings, 109 of the New York semifinalists came from schools outside the city, many from Long Island.

Ward Melville High School in East Setauket tied with Montgomery Blair High School in Maryland for the most winners, each with 12 semifinalists.

This was the first year that Ward Melville had as many semifinalists as any other school in the country.

Paul D. Schreiber High School in Port Washington, also on Long Island, tied Stuyvesant with eight semifinalists each.

Thomas Colletti, the principal of Ward Melville, said that his school's proximity to Stony Brook University enabled students to use labs there and engage mentors who helped students who had an interest in science.

"We have kids who spend their whole summer in those labs," he said. "They pull all-nighters working on these projects."

David Brennen, the marketing development manager for Intel, the technology company that sponsors the contest, said as he flipped through the list of semifinalists that he was surprised to see how many attended schools on Long Island.

"I have worked on this for five or six years and suddenly there were names of schools I didn't even recognize, and people who had never entered before," Mr. Brennan said.

The contest, founded in 1942 as the Westinghouse Science Talent Search, has long been known as prestigious and fiercely competitive.

The titles of projects this year included "The Search for Cosmic-Ray-Induced Lightning Strokes," "A New Target to Fight Breast Cancer" and "Some Children Left Behind: The Troubling Effects of Middle School Reform on the Body Image Concerns of Sixth Grade Girls."

In all, there were 1,558 entrants representing 486 high schools in 44 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands. The Intel Foundation awards \$1,000 to each semifinalist, and a matching amount to the student's school. Each semifinalist is also given a laptop computer. The 40 finalists will be announced on Jan. 25, and the winners, who compete for college scholarships totaling more than \$500,000, will be named in March.

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