Tips to Encourage Science Fair Participation

If you have talented students who are interested in science, here are some ways to encourage them to participate in a science fair.

In the Classroom

- Introduce science fair at the beginning of each semester and even at the end of the school year to get students interested in working on projects over the summer.
- Determine a plan for working within a school's semester or block scheduling of science classes so that everyone can be encouraged to participate.
- Stress hands-on labs with data collection in your science classes. This reinforces concepts and helps students learn the scientific method in a concrete fashion.
- Urge research experiments, rather than models or collections. To continue on to an Intel® ISEF affiliated fair, only research experiments are allowed.
- Require students to write up their lab experiments using the scientific method. Make sure they have all the parts of an experimental summary: question, hypothesis, materials, procedures, results in chart or graph form, analysis, and conclusion.

Outside of the Classroom

- Encourage students to pursue their individual interests within the scientific topic being learned and to go beyond their classroom learning.
- Start a science club to help students that are not currently enrolled in a science class and to provide extra-curricular opportunities in science exploration and discovery.
- Be familiar with the Intel ISEF Rules and Regulations so that you may advise your students. Hold a seminar to explain them, or if appropriate, draft a science fair handbook with reference to these rules for your students. (Many districts have a science fair handbook; check this out before you start writing your own.) Include:
  - Deadlines for entry.
  - Individual or team entries allowed.
  - Method for reviewing rules and getting appropriate approvals.
  - Display & Safety Guidelines: Size of board and what can and cannot be on the board.

Work with the community to connect students to mentors - at the local university, hospital, or veterinary practice.

*Information from Science Service web site