



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Winston-Salem State University Hosts MSEN Day, April 04, 2009**

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### **23<sup>rd</sup> Annual MSEN Day**

This past Saturday April 4<sup>th</sup>, Winston-Salem State University hosted over 800 talented middle school and high school students in an exciting array of competitions to celebrate NC-MSEN's 23<sup>rd</sup> annual MSEN Day. This event is a highlight in the NC-MSEN Pre-College Program calendar, which seeks to broaden the pool of students pursuing mathematics and science-based majors and careers.

NC-MSEN oversees Pre-College Program sites at East Carolina University, Elizabeth City State University, Fayetteville State University, NC Agricultural & Technical State University, North Carolina State University, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Western Carolina University, and well as Winston-Salem State University. Middle school and high school students participate in year-round programs at these sites, and students from all these locations participated in MSEN Day.

Following registration at 9:00 AM, the participants attended an opening ceremony. Remarks were provided by Dr. Vincent Snipes, Director of the NC-MSEN Center for Mathematics, Science and Technology Education, Winston-Salem State University; Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Dr. Jessica Bailey, Winston-Salem State University; Dr. Verna L. Holoman, Executive Director of the North Carolina Mathematics and Science Education Network, UNC Center for School Leadership Development; and Dr. Rita L. Fuller, Associate Director of the Pre-College Program, also of the North Carolina Mathematics and Science Education Network.

Following the ceremony, the students broke out into specialized teams to compete for honors in the challenges listed below:

Teams of three students competed in written math tests covering a range of educational levels and disciplines, including algebra, geometry and calculus. The teams with the highest composite scores were:

Sixth Grade Math

First Place: Eastern Carolina University  
Second Place: UNC Chapel Hill  
Third Place: Fayetteville State University

Seventh Grade Math

First Place: Eastern Carolina University  
Second Place: Winston-Salem State University  
Third Place: Elizabeth City State University

Middle School Pre-Algebra

First Place: UNC Chapel Hill  
Second Place: Fayetteville State University  
Third Place: UNC Charlotte

Middle School Algebra I

First Place: North Carolina State University  
Second Place: Elizabeth City State University  
Third Place (tie): Elizabeth City State University  
North Carolina State University  
UNC Chapel Hill

High School Algebra I

First Place: Elizabeth City State University  
Second Place: UNC Charlotte  
Third Place: Elizabeth City State University

High School Algebra II

First Place: UNC Charlotte  
Second Place: North Carolina State University  
Third Place: North Carolina State University

Geometry

First Place: UNC Charlotte  
Second Place: North Carolina State University  
Third Place: Elizabeth City State University

Pre-Calculus

First Place: Elizabeth City State University  
Second Place: UNC Charlotte  
Third Place (tie): North Carolina State University  
UNC Charlotte

## Calculus

First Place: UNC Chapel Hill  
Second Place: North Carolina State University  
Third Place: North Carolina A&T State University

Teams of three students also competed in written science tests covering a range of educational levels and disciplines, including physical science, biology, chemistry and physics. The teams with the highest composite scores were:

## Sixth Grade Science

First Place: Elizabeth City State University  
Second Place: UNC Chapel Hill  
Third Place: East Carolina University

## Seventh Grade Science

First Place: East Carolina University  
Second Place: UNC Charlotte  
Third Place: UNC Chapel Hill

## Eighth Grade Science

First Place: Fayetteville State University  
Second Place: UNC Chapel Hill  
Third Place: East Carolina University

## Physical Science

First Place: UNC Charlotte  
Second Place: UNC Charlotte

## Biology

First Place: North Carolina State University  
Second Place: UNC Charlotte  
Third Place: UNC Charlotte

## Chemistry

First Place: Elizabeth City State University  
Second Place: North Carolina State University  
Third Place: UNC Charlotte

Teams of two students competed in the construction of pressurized bottle rockets, launching them for maximum time aloft. The teams with the best designs were:

## Bottle Rockets – Middle School Division

First Place: Western Carolina University  
Second Place: UNC Chapel Hill  
Third Place: North Carolina State University

### Bottle Rockets – High School Division

- First Place: North Carolina State University
- Second Place: UNC Chapel Hill
- Third Place: UNC Charlotte

Teams of two students competed in the construction of towers made of drinking straws and basic connectors, with the goal of supporting the most weight at the greatest height. The teams with the best designs were:

### Engineering & Design – Middle School Division

- First Place: North Carolina State University
- Second Place: UNC Chapel Hill
- Third Place: Western Carolina University

### Engineering & Design – High School Division

- First Place: Fayetteville State University
- Second Place: North Carolina A&T State University
- Third Place: North Carolina State University

Teams of two students competed in a ‘mystery architecture’ challenge, building custom structures from limited materials to satisfy a basic physical requirement kept secret beforehand. The teams with the best designs were:

### Mystery Architecture – Middle School Division

- First Place: North Carolina State University
- Second Place: UNC Charlotte
- Third Place: East Carolina University

### Mystery Architecture – High School Division

- First Place: UNC Chapel Hill
- Second Place: Fayetteville State University
- Third Place: UNC Charlotte

One middle school student and one high school student from each Pre-College Program site competed in the oratorical competition, delivering three to five minute speeches on the topic, “NC-MSEN: Building a STEM Foundation for Future Success.” (STEM is an acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.) The judges awarded prizes to the following students:

### Oratorical Competition – Middle School Division

- First Place: Jaelyn Harvey, Fayetteville State University
- Second Place: Kiana Rivers, Elizabeth City State University
- Third Place: Ayanna Antoine, North Carolina A&T State University

### Oratorical Competition – High School Division

- First Place: Deja Williams, UNC Charlotte
- Second Place: Makida Bell, North Carolina State University
- Third Place: Brittany Baker, Elizabeth City State University

Teams of two students competed in a parachute egg drop, constructing parachutes to achieve a maximum glide time, and safely land the egg they carry. The teams with the best designs were:

Parachute Egg Drop – Middle School Division

First Place: Winston-Salem State University  
Second Place: Western Carolina University

Parachute Egg Drop – High School Division

First Place: UNC Charlotte  
Second Place: UNC Chapel Hill

Teams of two or three students competed in a ‘Picture This’ competition, in which team members had to convey scientific terms to their teammates without speaking, by drawing pictures to illustrate the terms. The teams with the highest number of identified terms were:

‘Picture This’ – Middle School Division

First Place: UNC Charlotte  
Second Place: North Carolina State University  
Third Place: East Carolina University

‘Picture This’ – High School Division

First Place: UNC Charlotte  
Second Place: Fayetteville State University  
Third Place: Winston-Salem State University

Teams of three students competed in a poster art competition, creating posters ‘on the spot’ to illustrate the theme kept secret beforehand. The teams judged to have the best posters were:

Poster Art – Middle School Division

First Place: Fayetteville State University  
Second Place: Western Carolina University  
Third Place: North Carolina State University

Poster Art – High School Division

First Place: North Carolina State University  
Second Place: Elizabeth City State University  
Third Place: UNC Charlotte

Teams of four students competed in a quiz bowl, answering questions about science, mathematics and cultural awareness in single elimination round robins. The winning teams were:

Quiz Bowl

First Place: Elizabeth City State University  
Second Place: North Carolina State University  
Third Place: UNC Charlotte

Teams of two students competed in a ‘Write It, Do It’ challenge, in which one team member wrote instructions for the second team member to construct an object, sight unseen. The teams with the most accurate re-created objects were:

‘Write It, Do It’ – Middle School Division

First Place: UNC Chapel Hill  
Second Place: Fayetteville State University  
Third Place: Winston-Salem State University

‘Write It, Do It’ – High School Division

First Place: North Carolina State University  
Second Place: Winston-Salem State University  
Third Place: Elizabeth City State University

In a new competition, students brought LEGO Mindstorms® Robots they had previously constructed to compete in a maze challenge. The teams with the best robot designs were:

Robotics

First Place: Fayetteville State University  
Second Place: UNC Charlotte  
Third Place: Winston Salem State University

Each Pre-College Program site designed a t-shirt, which the team members wore during the day. The t-shirts were judged for their design merits, and how well they epitomized the Day’s theme: “NC-MSEN: Building a STEM Foundation for Future Success.” (STEM is an acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.) The programs with the best t-shirt designs were:

T-Shirt Design

First Place: Elizabeth City State University  
Second Place: UNC Charlotte  
Third Place: UNC Chapel Hill

After lunch, while scores were tallied, Dr. Juliette Belle, Professor of Chemistry at Fayetteville State University gave an inspiring keynote address. The awards ceremony concluded the day. Jaelyn Harvey and Deja Williams, the winners in the Oratorical Competition, delivered their remarkable winning speeches to the full assembly. Based on a weighted ranking of their placement in all the competitions, the Pre-College Programs awarded trophies for all-around excellence were:

FIRST PLACE: UNC CHARLOTTE  
SECOND PLACE: NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY  
THIRD PLACE: ELIZABETH CITY STATE UNIVERSITY

Celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, NC-MSEN is a constituent program in the UNC Center for School Leadership Development, housed in UNC General Administration. NC-MSEN has two primary components: teacher professional development and a Pre-College Program. It provides statewide leadership for the improvement of mathematics and science teaching and learning, with two goals:

strengthening the quality and increasing the size of the teaching base in science and mathematics education; and increasing the pool of students who graduate from North Carolina's high schools prepared to pursue careers that require mathematics and science.

For more information about NC-MSEN, visit [www.unc.edu/depts/msen](http://www.unc.edu/depts/msen).