

For Immediate Release: Monday, January, 28, 2019

## **Fort Smith Students Win National Science Bowl® Regional Competition, Secure Spot in National Finals in Washington, D.C.**

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A team of middle school students from Fort Smith, Arkansas won their regional competition for the 2019 National Science Bowl® (NSB) this past weekend and will advance to compete in the NSB National Finals this spring in Washington, D.C., the **U.S. Department of Energy** (DOE), who sponsors the NSB, announced today.

“The National Science Bowl® has grown into one of the most prestigious and competitive science academic competitions in the country, challenging students to excel in the STEM fields so vital to America’s future,” said U.S. Secretary of Energy Rick Perry. “I am proud to oversee a Department that provides such a unique and empowering opportunity for our nation’s students, and I am honored to congratulate Chaffin Junior High School for advancing to the National Finals, where they will be competing against some of the brightest science, technology, and engineering students across the country.”

The NSB brings together thousands of middle and high school students from across the country to compete in a fast-paced question-and-answer format where they solve technical problems and answer questions on a range of science disciplines including biology, chemistry, Earth and space science, physics and math.

The team from your area that won their qualifying regional competition this past weekend and will be advancing to the National Finals is:

Chaffin Junior High School, Fort Smith, Arkansas

A series of 111 regional middle school and high school tournaments are being held across the country from January through March. Winners will advance to represent their areas at the National Science Bowl® held from April 25 to April 29 in Washington, D.C., for the final middle school and high school competitions.

The top 16 high school teams and the top 16 middle school teams in the National Finals will win \$1,000 for their schools’ science departments. Prizes for the top two high school teams for the 2019 NSB will be announced at a later date.

The first and second place high school teams from the 2018 NSB received all-expenses-paid science trips to Alaska, where they learned more about glaciology, marine and avian biology, geology, and plate tectonics.

More than 290,000 students have participated in the National Science Bowl® in its 28-year history, and it is one of the nation’s largest science competitions. More than 14,000 students compete in the NSB each year.

DOE's Office of Science manages the NSB Finals competition. More information is available on the NSB website: <http://www.science.energy.gov/wdts/nsb/>.

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