

EAST GREENBUSH CENTRAL SCHOOLS

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NEWS RELEASE

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EGCSD STUDENTS CONTINUE SCIENCE OLYMPIAD TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE

Prior to every competition, teams are usually given a motivational speech by their coach. They frequently contain messages of striving for greatness and working together. When the East Greenbush Central School District's Columbia High School Science Olympiad team hears these speeches, they also contain references to the tradition of excellence that the team has built up over the years and how they are standing on the shoulders of giants – greatness has come before, and they are expected to try and reach these same levels. For many, this would seem like a lot of pressure put on to a group of teenagers. This is not the case for Columbia's team. Each year, they take the challenges presented to them and strive to join in their school's tradition of excellence. The 2010 Columbia High School Science Olympiad team did not disappoint.

The Capital District Science Olympiad Regional Competition was held at the College of Saint Rose on Saturday, February 6th. Twenty one teams from across the region were present to compete. The competition consisted of twenty three events that included all branches of science including: engineering, physics, chemistry, biology and earth science. At the end of the day, the top teams earn the privilege to advance on to the State Finals held at West Point in March.

Columbia Science Olympians enter the competition knowing that others are watching them and hearing whispers of how Columbia is the team to watch – the one that sets the standard for excellence. "There is a certain amount of pride in being a member of our team because of its long standing reputation. This year, that reputation continued, and both of Columbia's teams – the JV and Varsity-placed in the top spots at Regional Competition," said Columbia's Assistant Advisor Darleen Morgan.

The Columbia teams won a combined total of thirty one medals in the twenty three events held. The JV team completed the competition in fourth place overall, a noteworthy achievement because many of these students are sophomores who have not competed at the high school level before. The Varsity team finished in first place overall by a margin of more than fifty points above its nearest competitor, Niskayuna. The team has, once again, earned the title of Regional Champions and will move on to the State Finals at West Point in March.

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Team Columbia members included: Erin Blaney, Lindsay Bonesteel, Roslyn Brandes, Megan Brown, Giustina DiPreta, Michael Donovan, Royce Duda, Daniel Geng, Jason Hofmeister, Ryan Hogan, Hannah Johnson, Heidi Johnson, Ari Karo, Sean Kelton, Kristin Kirby, Jeff Knox, Tyler McAvoy, Colleen McGrath, Trevor Molineaux, Matthew Mullin, Christian Multunas, Conor O'Brien, Keith O'Connor, Lydia Pazienza, Dan Petroccione, Tyler Quinn Holloway, Megan Romer, Megan Smead, Alan Vlieg and David Vlieg.

Individual medals were earned by the following:

Daniel Geng and Dan Petroccione – 4th Place in Helicopter
Sean Kelton and Colleen McGrath – 2nd Place Chemistry Lab
Sean Kelton and Colleen McGrath 2nd Place Technical Problem Solving
Matthew Mullin and Ari Karo – 2nd Place in Astronomy
Hannah Johnson and Lindsay Bonesteel – 2nd Place in Write it Do it
Matthew Mullin and Sean Kelton – 5th Place in Trajectory
Matthew Mullin and Kristin Kirby – 1st Place in Sumobots
Jason Hofmeister and Tyler Quinn Holloway – 2nd Place in Sumobots
Hannah Johnson and David Vlieg – 2nd Place in Remote Sensing
Sean Kelton and Jeff Knox – 1st Place in Protein Modeling
Megan Brown and Lydia Pazienza – 3rd Place in Protein Modeling
Alan Vlieg, Megan Smead, and Roslyn Brandes – 2nd Place in Picture This
Jeff Knox and Ari Karo – 2nd Place in Physics Lab
Ryan Hogan and Keith O'Connor – 3rd Place in Ornithology
Mike Donovan and Giustina DiPreta – 1st Place in Mousetrap Vehicle
Conor O'Brien and Megan Smead – 5th Place in Mousetrap Vehicle
Conor O'Brien, Megan Smead and Roslyn Brandes – 1st Place in Experimental Design
Giustina DiPreta, Christian Multunas, and Michael Donovan – 3rd Place in Experimental Design
Ari Karo and Erin Blaney – 1st Place in Fossils
Roslyn Brandes and Kristin Kirby – 1st Place in Forensics
Megan Smead and Jeff Knox – 1st Place in Environmental Chemistry
Kristin Kirby and Erin Blaney – 3rd Place in Elevated Bridge
Ryan Hogan and Conor O'Brien – 2nd Place in Ecology
Keith O'Connor and Heidi Johnson – 5th Place in Dynamic Planet
Roslyn Brandes and Megan Romer – 2nd Place in Disease Detective
Sean Kelton and Jeff Knox – 1st Place in Cell Biology
Ryan Hogan and Megan Smead – 2nd Place in Anatomy and Physiology
Heidi Johnson and Alan Vlieg – 1st Place in Remote Sensing
Royce Duda and Trevor Molineaux – 2nd Place in Dynamic Planet
Michael Donovan and Daniel Geng – 3rd Place in Environmental Chemistry
Trevor Molineaux and Michael Donovan – 4th Place in Chemistry Lab

“We wish the team well as they continue to prepare for West Point, and hope that they continue to excel and improve upon the tradition of Columbia Science Olympiad greatness,” said Morgan.

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