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Kids
experience
science hands-on at
the annual STEP
conference. STEP 4
will be held Nov. 6-8.
Photo by Michael J.
Elderman

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STEP 4 Conference

Riverside Convention Center
Student Conference
November 6-7, 2003
Teacher Conference
November 8, 2003
www.myScienceEducation.com

STEP Sponsors Poster and Essay Contest for Students

STEP is sponsoring an Essay Contest and a Poster Contest for 4th through 8th grade students. The theme for both of these events is "Science is Everywhere." The contest is open to students throughout the Inland Empire. For each contest, first prize is \$200, second prize is \$100, and third prize is \$50.

Prizes are presented as US Savings Bonds.

POSTER CONTEST DETAILS:

Posters must be received by STEP no later than September 26, 2003. In general, posters must be

two-dimensional, but no thicker than 3/8 inch and must not exceed 24 x 30 inches (including any matting). Reproductions of existing artwork are not acceptable, but almost anything else goes. Posters will be judged on their creativity and ability to capture the theme. Good luck. **Entries should be sent to:**
STEP 4 Poster Contest
c/o CSC
2727 Hamner Avenue
Norco, CA 92860

Kids
learn about
the world of Tech
at the STEP 4
Conference. Photo
by Michael J.
Elderman



ESSAY CONTEST DETAILS:

Essays must be received by STEP no later than September 26, 2003. The competition rules are as follows:

**STEP is seeking
creative artists and
writers for a chance
to win prizes!**

- Essays may not exceed 500 words.
- The original and one copy must be submitted.
- All pages must be numbered.
- Pages must not exceed 8.5" x 11".
- Pages must be written on

one side only (except for name).

- The student's name must be written on the back of each page.
- When appropriate, the students may dictate their essay to another person.
- Note: Students whose first language is not

English may submit their essay in their own language, but the essay must be accompanied by a translation.

Essays will be judged for creativity, ability to capture the theme, grammar, and punctuation. **Completed**

essays should be sent to:

STEP 4 Essay Contest

c/o CSC

2727 Hamner Avenue, Norco, CA 92860

DON'T MISS OUT: Make sure that the entries are mailed early enough to arrive at our office by the deadline. Only entries received by the deadline will be considered for the prizes, so don't delay. Have fun with it and thank you for supporting STEP. We look forward to seeing how creative you can be.

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In the Spotlight

I/O Software Improves Security

Serving the Connected World



Imagine creating a company right out of college that has secured business contracts with leading technology companies around the world; being identified as one of the 50 fastest growing technology companies in Southern California; and sponsoring scholarships and other educational programs so budding new scientists realize their intellectual and entrepreneurial potential.

Well that's just what STEP Sponsor I/O Software has done, and it's what makes I/O Software a shining example of STEP's mission and objectives.

Founded in 1991 by University of California, Riverside graduate William Saito, I/O Software began focusing on authentication and information security in 1996. Since then, I/O Software has built close working relationships with many key players in the industry from around the world. Sony, Microsoft, Intel, Visa, Fujitsu, and Panasonic - an impressive roster of clients, to be sure.

I/O Software uses its technology to replace passwords and positively

"authenticate" or verify users to ensure security. They have developed an "authentication platform" that integrates with security-related technologies, such as fingerprint, face, and iris recognition.

Over the years, I/O Software has been recognized for its technology, expertise, and leadership, with its products receiving multiple awards and recognitions, including the prestigious PC Magazine's Editors Choice Awards, Frost & Sullivan's Technology Innovation Award, Ernst & Young's 1998 Entrepreneur of the Year Award, and the Deloitte & Touche's Technology Fast 50 Award. An important part of I/O Software's technology, the Biometric API (BAPI) was entered into the permanent collection of the Computerworld Smithsonian Technology Institute.

I/O Software promises to be a leading example of how technology companies can start right here in the Inland Empire, recruit local talent to grow their companies, and partner with STEP to help produce tomorrow's generation of technology leaders. STEP is proud to have them as a top sponsor.

2002 STEP Essay Contest

STEP conducted an Essay Contest prior to last year's conference which took place on November 1-2, 2002. Students were asked to write an essay entitled "What I like about Math and Science." The Essay Contest was well-received by teachers and was an interesting topic for many students. Three winners were chosen: two students from George Washington Elementary School in Riverside and one student from Bethune School in Moreno Valley. The 1st place winner was awarded a \$100 savings bond, the 2nd place winner was awarded a \$75 savings bond, and the 3rd place winner was awarded a \$50 savings bond. All three students were excited about math and science and did a great job in articulating that onto paper. Thanks to everyone who participated and congratulations to all of our winners!

Sponsorship Opportunities

The Science and Technology Education Partnership is an opportunity to align your company with an organization that encourages youth to excel in science, engineering, and technology in school. With the goal of promoting these areas of education, we hope to see more young people pursue careers in these fields.

There are many opportunities to be a part of the STEP program. We are seeking both monetary donations and in-kind donations. Sponsorship levels include Presenting Sponsor, directly associating your company's name with the STEP name, and several tiers of sponsorship packages and varying levels.

For more information and to request a sponsorship packet, contact Troy Clarke at (909) 805-7837.

The STEP 4 Conference is sponsored in part by:

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In the State

California Adding Tech Jobs

by Dr. Susan Hackwood, Executive Director, California Council of Science and Technology

Even in today's troubled economy, California remains the national and global leader in science and technology.

While the growth of science and technology related employment slowed sharply in 2002, California still added over 12,000 high-tech jobs - more than any other state. Clusters of high-tech industries, like those found in Silicon Valley and San Diego, thrive around top research centers, which California has in abundance. In fact, it was just rated the top state in the country for key high-tech research, industry, venture capital, and innovation capacity.

There's significant promise in the cutting-edge industries driving the "New Economy." Biotechnology research is exploring new medical products such as artificial blood vessels and custom-made enzymes; nanotechnology research is leading to advances in microsurgery and custom-designed materials built atom by atom; information technology advances

are leading to more efficient energy usage and traffic system management.

But there are significant challenges to California's continued high-tech success. A significant and increasing proportion of our population isn't fully participating in the "New Economy." In many regions of California, insufficient numbers of trained workers limit the ability of research generated in our universities and industries to translate into high-tech industry growth. This is especially true in regions such as the Inland Empire where there are significant numbers of students from low socioeconomic and particularly underrepresented minority backgrounds.

The intersection of California's "New Economy" and "New Demography" will determine the future of our state's economic well-being. It's more important than ever to make sure that all of our children have the means and the opportunity to succeed in school and the high-tech workforce.

In Education

Inland Science Fair Winners

The Inland Science and Engineering Fair is an annual competition of science projects designed, developed, and displayed by elementary and secondary students from schools in Riverside, Inyo, Mono, and San Bernardino (RIMS) counties. The regional competition took place at the National Orange Show in San Bernardino on April 22-23, 2003.

STEP representatives were among the judges critiquing the projects in the following areas: 1) clearly defined goals; 2) original thought; 3) creativity; 4) use of scientific method; 5) organization and presentation.

STEP awarded a \$500 savings bond to both Sabina Bera and Drew Murphy of Corona's Centennial High School who competed in the Senior Division (grades 9-12). Their project was entitled "Ideal DNA Detection through Hybridization of Complementary Strands."

STEP also awarded a \$500 savings bond to Shay Edwards of Highland Elementary School in Norco, who competed in the Junior Division (grades 6-8). His project was titled "Emissivity: A Study in Infrared Viewing."

Congratulations to these students for their recognition and their creative and unique projects. STEP is proud to support such motivated and talented students.

Upcoming Events

Science Olympiad Summer Institutes

July 7-12 - Glen Arbor, MI
July 28 - August 1, Phoenix, AZ
Secondary Science

Olympiad educators are eligible to use the new Title II program's funds to attend Science Olympiad Summer Institutes designed for teachers, coaches, supervisors, and administrators, grades 6-12.

Classes will cover events such as bridge building, road scholar, experimental design, science lab, robots, bottle rocket, fossils, crime busters, chemistry lab, mission possible, wright stuff, water quality, dynamic planet, and more. Plus new events for next year. Also learn how to build a team and gain support for your science program.

For more information, call Sharon Putz, Executive Administrator, at 248-651-4013.

2004 Science Olympiad

Mark your calendars for the 2004 Science Olympiad • February 21, 2004
at the Navy base in Norco.

STEP Awards \$1,000 Stipends To Three Inland Teachers

Thirteen Schools Participate in the Science Olympiad

The Science Olympiad, which took place on February 22 at Riverside's Poly High School, provides an avenue for middle and high school students to learn more about math and science through friendly competition. Thirteen schools participated in eight events that focused on math and science principles.

STEP awarded \$1,000 stipends to three teachers to attend the Science Olympiad Summer Institute in Phoenix, Arizona from July 28 to August 1, 2003.

Congratulations to the following teachers: Rick Loomis, Cajon High School, San Bernardino; Colleen Sumner, Moore Middle School, Redlands; and Eric Olson, Hemet High School, Hemet.

STEP also presented three students with Texas Instruments graphing calculators. This is an annual event which will be hosted next year at the Navy base in Norco.

Science Fair Registration Goes Smoothly with STEP's Online Registration Process

STEP took another stride in implementing technology to help students register for our region's RIMS Science Fair. Historically, the Science Fair was a paper-driven registration system that was used to register, collect information, and gain parental approval for each project. This year, the STEP web site was modified to automatically collect registration information on each student, categorize the project, document an abstract of the project, and provide consent and regulatory forms that required parental signatures.

Over 750 projects were registered with approximately 800 students participating. It was a huge success and the Science Fair committee was extremely grateful for our efforts. When asked if they would like to go back to the old system, the science fair coordinators' answer was, "No, no, no!"



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