

SCHOOL

Two Nicholas students win scholarships

By Heather Mathews
of the Carlisle Mercury Staff

Two Nicholas County High School students competed to a statewide science competition and took home two offers for scholarships to a major college.

Kathy Green, biology teacher and sponsor, travelled with Gretchen Judge and Sonya Johnson to the University of Louisville for the Kentucky Junior Science and Humanities Symposium held in Breckler Auditorium on March 30-31.

Green said, "There were approximately 75 papers from schools across the state submitted to the symposium and 14 of those were chosen to come to the University of Louisville and present their papers."

Gretchen and Sonya were not only chosen to be in the 14 semifinalist group, but also were the four winners picked that were offered a four-year scholarship to the University of Louisville," Green added.

Judge's presentation was based on cancer research with mice done in the laboratory at Nicholas County High School and further research at the University of Kentucky Library.

"The project title was a 'Scientific Inhibition on Growth of Neovascular Arterioles,'" Judge said.

"This means that I used selenium, a dietary mineral, to inhibit or slow down the growth of neovascular cells."

"I worked with 15 lab mice and gradually added selenium to their diet before injecting mammary carcinoma cells."

"After the judging of presentations by medicine professors was concluded, Judge was also awarded an invitation for internship at a national laboratory in Oakridge, Tenn., by the Department of Energy for the weeks of July 2-22."

Green said, "I think internships are a very good opportunity for students to experience laboratory assignments firsthand, (besides that they have already learned to perform in the lab here in Biology III)."

"Sonya was awarded an internship last year and went to Berkeley in California," Green said. Johnson performed extensive research titled 'In vivo In vitro which means the study of effects on Penicillium lactiformans in anti-protozoan infections which include Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome mentioned in another article."

Johnson said Judge began preparation for research in early October for this particular project.

Green said, "The judges were very complimentary because this is a small county, small system in a rural community and these kids were more than willing to seek out people at major university's to work with," said Green.

"Plus, they were especially complimentary of the effort Sonya and Gretchen put forth to go all the way to the University of Kentucky to get more research and finally to make sure it got all together, because, that is exactly what it takes," Green added.

"One of the five finalists were chosen from this school out of 5 statewide science competitions - that is impressive in itself, but also Gretchen is only the second junior at Nicholas County to achieve this much recognition."

"Even though this kind of success puts a lot of pressure on next year's group, and I do not know how much further we could possibly go, I do hope we will follow up with even bigger and better things," Green concluded.

Judge and Johnson are considering all possibilities before accepting any offered scholarship. Johnson will major in veterinarian medicine and Judge will continue her education as a Pharmacy major.

Sonya Johnson and Gretchen Judge, participants in the Kentucky Junior Science and Humanities Symposium, were awarded as two of the four finalists and were offered a four year scholarship to the University of Louisville for their research and written work involving science advancements - Heather Mathews Staff



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