

Kennewick High School takes Regional Science Bowl title

Kennewick High School Team One took first place at the Department of Energy Regional Science Bowl on Feb. 22, beating 26 eastern Washington and Oregon high-school teams in competition at Washington State University Tri-Cities in Richland.

The win qualified Kennewick High School team members Jason Gilmore, Suzanne Hayward, Jerry Oelerich, Chris Toomey and Craig Weidert along with coach Don Fankhauser, to participate in the National Science Bowl competition in May in Washington, D.C.



Science Bowl teams compete in the round-robin competition. First-place honors in the overall competition went to a team representing Kennewick High School.

In the regional event, teams competed in round-robin matches and a double-elimination tournament before entering the final round. In the final match, Kennewick High School Team One competed against Kennewick High School Team Three.

Southridge High School's Team Three took third place, while Hanford High School's Team One took fourth place.

Walla Walla High School's Team Two took home the Sportsmanship Award. Heather Conner of Kennewick High School, Jason Rosselet of Pasco High School and Peter Scherpelz of Southridge High School won All Star medallions for answering the most toss-up questions.

DOE started the National Science Bowl in 1991 to encourage high school students across the nation to excel in math and science and to pursue careers in those fields. The DOE National Science Bowl provides the students and coaches a forum to receive national recognition for their talents and hard work.

Local companies sponsored the Regional Science Bowl by providing t-shirts, certificates, trophies, food and the winning team's trip to the National Science Bowl. Among the sponsors were the DOE Richland Operations Office and the DOE Office of River Protection, Battelle, Hanford Environmental Health Foundation, Bechtel, CH2M HILL Hanford Group and Fluor Hanford. ■