

YOU BE THE CHEMIST STATE CHALLENGE

PRESS RELEASE 4/30/15

FIRST PLACE
Shivani Nellore

SECOND PLACE
Chandu Kona



1st row-left to right: Sae Patwardhan, Jacob Molloy, Austin Melchor
2nd row-left to right: Camble Abner, Shivani Nellore, Chandu Kona, Clayton Snider, Allie Morris

The ***You Be The Chemist*** state challenge took place on Saturday, April 25, 2015 at the Owensboro Natural History & Science Museum. This beautiful museum located in the heart of old downtown Owensboro was the perfect back drop for this dramatic display of young scientific knowledge. In previous local ***You Be The Chemist*** competitions, students from Henderson, Meade, and Oldham counties vied to be one of the four students from each county to compete in the state challenge. They were:

Henderson County	Camble Abner, D.J. Banks*, Deegan Lawrence, and Isaac Thurmond
Sponsor	Brenntag Mid-South

Meade County	Austin Melchor, Brianna Morris, John Psyck, and Clayton Snider*
Sponsor	Monument Chemical

Oldham County	Chandu Kona, Jacob Molloy, Shivani Nellore, Sae Patwardhan
Sponsor	Dow Chemical

* Second year of competition

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The format of the competition used multiple choice questions that were extracted from the ***You Be The Chemist*** study guide material. Students were provided this study guide, plus they have access to the ***You Be The Chemist*** website where they can gather more knowledge.

The competition moderator was Kenny Galbraith (Brenntag Mid-South), the scorer was Amy Berry (Meade Co. Board of Education), and judging was performed by Kara Becker (Henderson Community College), Lee Kincaid (Brenntag Mid-South), and Barry Stewart (Monument Chemical). Teachers attending were Cassie Austin (Henderson South Middle School), Jamie Boeglin (Henderson North Middle School), and Assistant Principal Chad Buchman (North Oldham Middle School).

The competition was fierce as the students answered very difficult questions spanning a variety of scientific topics. At the end of six rounds of grueling competition, the final remaining student was Shivani Nellore of North Oldham Middle School. Shivani will now represent Kentucky at the ***You Be The Chemist*** National Challenge in Philadelphia, PA on Monday, June 22rd. Second Place was taken by Chandu Kona of North Oldham Middle School, Third Place by Clayton Snider of Stuart Pepper Middle School, and Fourth Place by Allie Morris of Stuart Pepper Middle School.

Special trophies were awarded to the four finalists and competition medals with ribbons to the other eight competitors. The winning student received a \$50 gift debit card and the others students received \$25 cards compliments of Brenntag Mid-South. To finish off a fine morning of competition, a hot pizza lunch with all the trimmings was served up for all in attendance provided by Brenntag Mid-South and Monument Chemical.

The ***You Be The Chemist*** initiative is the flagship program of the Chemical Educational Foundation® (CEF; www.chemed.org). The CEF is a nationally recognized, award winning, non-profit organization committed to enhancing science education among every generation, beginning with our youth. By emphasizing the central role of chemistry in all the sciences and in our everyday lives, CEF strives to inspire our future leaders in pursuing science-related careers and to improve the overall understanding of, participation in, and appreciation of chemistry and chemicals. The ***You Be The Chemist*** program focuses on grades K-8 and is designed to:

- Inspire the next generation of scientists, engineers, and industry leaders.
- Enhance science education through innovative techniques, such as hands-on activities and chemistry competitions.
- Effect positive long-term change in the general public's understanding of, participation in, and appreciation towards chemistry, chemicals, and the chemical industry.