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Arkansas' students have great things to offer- let's help them achieve their dreams!**

"I graduated from Little Rock Central High School in 1998 and in that year won both the overall prize at ISEF and the Intel scholarship, which was awarded at ISEF that year. In that respect my experience was not typical, but I benefited in many ways from the science fair program.

What makes science fair an outstanding program is the variety of skills that it teaches. I learned not only how to think in a logical and structured manner, as well as how to do background research in academic journals and on the Internet, but also how to present my ideas persuasively to judges, how to speak in public in high-pressure situations, and how to make a realistic research plan spanning several months, manage my time and motivate myself to make it happen - and I learned to hold myself personally accountable for the end results of my efforts. Moreover, science fair competitions were an invaluable opportunity to meet and measure myself against peers who had high intellectual standards, and to interact with scientific role models in the form of the judges.

Science fair prepares students not just for scientific careers, but also entrepreneurship. I used the communication skills and confidence I developed in science fair competitions to arrange a paid research position at MIT the summer after my senior year of high school to continue my work, and, later, to close a venture capital funding round for an Internet startup company that I founded based on research I had done in college."

*Geoff Schmitt*

<b>Arkansas Science and Engineering Fair</b>								
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