

Statewide engineering fair draws 900 students from across Oklahoma

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More than 900 middle and high school students from across the state recently took on challenging engineering projects as they competed in the Oklahoma Engineering Fair at the Science Museum Oklahoma.

Sponsored by the GE Foundation, the philanthropic organization of General Electric Corp., and the Oklahoma Engineering Foundation, the Engineering Fair required student engineers to devise innovative ways to solve engineering challenges in one of eight different categories.

Students came from a cross-section of school districts, from Sayre in western Oklahoma to Krebs in the southeast, and many points in between.

The mission of the engineering fair is to encourage students across the state to embrace STEM education, or science, technology, engineering and math, said Adrienne Covington Graham, executive director of the Oklahoma Engineering Foundation.

Students use the STEM method – research an idea, build a working prototype, then try to improve upon it – to solve challenges such as oil extraction, bridge building, tower building, rubber band-power vehicles, electric motors, ping pong ball launchers, an aerospace competition and something called Wacky Wonder Works (think Rube Goldberg inventions).

“Engineers every day have to solve design problems,” Covington Graham said. “We want the students to come one year, figure out why their design didn’t work, make it better and then come back the next year. They can do that from the sixth grade all the way through high school.”

Students with top projects earned scholarships and medals for their work, while schools earned plaques and other awards.

“The bottom line for Oklahoma is the knowledge that students gain from working in teams to solve complex problems,” said Michael Carolina, executive director of the Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology (OCAST).

“It is energizing to me to see our next generation of scientists and engineers who are engaged in these engineering activities,” Carolina said. “I think the students will take from this the spirit of competition, the spirit of teamwork. You not only have to know the discipline and have knowledge of scientific principals, but also how to work as a team, depending on each other to get a particular task accomplished.”

Below are the top three students in each of the eight engineering categories:

CONTEST WINNERS:

Bridge Building Competition

- **First Place Load:** Laura Levescy, Belle Isle Enterprise Middle School – Oklahoma City
- **Second Place Load:** Lyndsie Reed, Mustang Middle School – Mustang
- **Third Place Load:** Destiny Dunbar, Avery Mitchell, Lexie Tatum, Jaelyn Northcutt, Pawnee Middle School – Pawnee
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- **First Place Efficiency:** Laura Levescy, Belle Isle Enterprise Middle School – Oklahoma City
- **Second Place Efficiency:** Lyndsie Reed, Mustang Middle School – Mustang
- **Third Place Efficiency:** Bryan (Tommy) Boedecker, Mustang Middle School – Mustang
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- **First Place Aesthetics:** Lauren Harms, Julia Ferrel, Burlington Public School – Burlington
- **Second Place Aesthetics:** Brinkli Abbitt, Highland West Junior High – Moore
- **Third Place Aesthetics:** Jonah Richards, Yukon Middle School – Yukon

Eiffel Tower Competition

- **First Place:** Dakota Clayton and Dakota Brewer, Corn Bible Academy – Corn
- **Second Place:** Aiden Strubel and Grant Smith, Belle Isle Enterprise Middle School – Oklahoma City
- **Third Place:** Jaycee Willingham and Kaylee Witte, Yukon Middle School – Yukon

Electric Motor Competition

- **First Place Vertical:** William Newman and Abigail Milner, Yukon High School – Yukon
- **Second Place Vertical:** Brendan Hill, Yukon Middle School – Yukon
- **Third Place Vertical:** Jonah Richards, Yukon Middle School – Yukon
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- **First Place Horizontal:** Carter Smith and Levi McAbee, Corn Bible Academy – Corn
- **Second Place Horizontal:** Barryck Heisler, Pawnee Middle School – Pawnee
- **Third Place Horizontal:** Aynslie Van Nest, Brink Jr. High – Moore

Oil/Gas Extraction Competition

- **First Place:** Dawson Hearen and teammates, Yukon Middle School – Yukon
- **Second Place:** Gordon Sullivan, Francis Tuttle Technology Center – Putnam City
- **Third Place:** Brooks Red, Logan Dodd, Layne Gwartney – Oklahoma City

Paper Airplane Competition

- **First Place:** K. Jackson, Butner High School – Cromwell
- **Second Place:** Brandon Warrior, Frontier Middle School – Red Rock
- **Third Place:** Kinsi Grube, Corn Bible Academy – Corn

Ping Pong Ball Launcher Competition

- **First Place:** Tristan Busk and Bailey Wright, Stillwater High School – Stillwater
- **Second Place:** Zach Snow and Kohl Kimmel, Yukon Middle School – Yukon
- **Third Place:** Caden Pogue and Sean Carr, Stillwater High School – Stillwater

Rubber Band Powered Vehicle Contest

- **First Place:** Andre Miller and Bailee Brown, Corn Bible Academy – Corn
- **Second Place:** Brendan Miller and Bradyn Brown, Corn Bible Academy – Corn
- **Third Place:** Spencer Boese and Alli Russell, Corn Bible Academy – Corn

Wacky Wonder Works

- **First Place:** Katherine Bose, Mikayla Nelson, and Ashli Bradford, Corn Bible Academy – Corn
- **Second Place:** Abigail Little, Shayla Jaswal, and Sierra Bors, Brink Jr. High – Moore
- **Third Place:** Blake Nance, Dylan Howard, Tristan LaRose, Yukon Middle School – Yukon
- **Honorable Mention:** Thomas Eaton, Kade Krittenbrink, and Julio Reza, Chisholm Trail Technology Center – Omega
- **Most Innovative:** Halli Humphrey, Viola Newman, Cheyenne Holland, Phyllis Bell, & D'Lanee Fields, Yukon Middle School – Yukon
- **Wackiest:** Halley Zauner, Cassidy Hopkins, Nathan Pundsack, Bogan Garcia, Harrah Middle School – Harrah
- **Most Technical:** Mason Red, Andrew Koscheski, and Cooper Brittain, Corn Bible Academy – Corn

ABOUT THE GE FOUNDATION:

The GE Foundation, the philanthropic organization of GE, is committed to building a world that works better. We empower people by helping them develop the skills they need to succeed in a global economy. We equip communities with the technology and capacity to improve access to better health and education. We elevate ideas that are tackling the world's toughest challenges to advance economic development and improve lives. The GE Foundation is powered by the generosity and talent of our employees, who have a strong commitment to their communities. We are at work making the world work better. Follow the GE Foundation at www.gefoundation.com and on Twitter at [@GE_Foundation](https://twitter.com/GE_Foundation).

ABOUT OCAST:

The Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology is a state agency charged with leading Oklahoma's technology-based economic development efforts, supporting the efforts of start-ups and entrepreneurs to transform promising innovations from concepts into commercial products. OCAST also is an active supporter of STEM education across Oklahoma's common education system and provides funding to support internships between local industries and two- and four-year colleges and universities. www.ocast.ok.gov

ABOUT OEF:

The Oklahoma Engineering Foundation was founded in 1975 and has worked for the last 40 years to provide science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) opportunities for students across the state of Oklahoma. OEF pioneered the Engineering Fair, introduced Oklahoma to MATHCOUNTS in 1983, and brought the Future City Competition here in 2000. Additionally, OEF has provided over \$315,000 in scholarship funds to engineering majors since inception.