

SBT24/7 News Report



Chelsea Arthur (right), New Prairie High School senior, displays her trophy after being named Indiana's 2009 'Top Young Scientist' by Gov. Mitch Daniels. The presentation was made Saturday, April 4, at the 21st Annual Hoosier Science and Engineering Fair. (Photo Provided)

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New Prairie High School's Chelsea Arthur placed first Saturday among Indiana high school seniors in the 21st Annual Hoosier Science and Engineering Fair.

Her project? *"Using Glass as a Catalyst for Diesel Particulate Filters."*

To her surprise, she's also the first recipient of Indiana's "Top Young Scientist" title from a program Gov. Mitch Daniels wants to be a catalyst for spurring academic achievement. Daniels came to the science fair Saturday and presented Arthur with a \$10,000 check to go along with her new title.

"We love basketball, but it won't pay the rent," Daniels was quoted saying at the presentation. "Indiana's economic future and our kid's individual futures depend more than anything else on academic achievement, especially in math and science. Young people like Chelsea are our true superstars."

With Daniels was Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. Tony Bennett and entrepreneur Bob Compton, who sponsored the award as part of an ongoing effort by Daniels to raise Indiana's level of recognition of academic achievement to that of athletic achievement, according to a news release from the governor's office.

"The intellectual achievements of Indiana's youth, not their athletic achievements, will be the foundation of our economic prosperity in the 21st century," said Compton.

He is also executive producer of "Two Million Minutes: A Global Examination," a documentary film that compares and contrasts the high school education experiences of students in India, China and the United States.

Arthur, daughter of David and Lori Kimmel, will next compete in the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in Reno, Nevada, in May.

Saturday's competition was sponsored by the Science Education Foundation of Indiana, where it showcases more than 100 top science fair projects from students in grades 9 through 12 from throughout the state.

All projects were judged by a panel of Indiana scientists on the basis of creative ability, scientific thought, engineering goals, skill and clarity.