

SUMMARY FACT SHEET FOR THE 48th SCIENCE ENGINEERING FAIR OF HOUSTON

PURPOSE: The Science Engineering Fair of Houston (SEFH) provides a unique and beneficial science educational service to public and private junior and senior high school students. Through the development and presentation of science/engineering projects, students enhance their abilities to: (1) Make observations; (2) Ask questions regarding particular phenomena or situations; (3) Formulate ideas and procedures for the solution of a problem; (4) Use complex and/or analytical reasoning skills to find an answer or a solution to a problem, and (5) Effectively present their works to society. SEFH strongly believes that it is just as important for students to learn how to use mathematics and science as it is to learn the subject material in the classroom. Project based learning has been our top priority since 1960. **At SEFH we stress understanding not memorization.** The educational activities sponsored by SEFH complement the rapidly growing need for students to be able to understand and utilize new technology. **In addition SEFH also sponsors a Science Writing Contest and a Technical Poster Design Contest.**

SPONSORSHIP: SEFH is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit educational organization, supervised by a board of directors and **sponsored by the University of Houston-Downtown; the Engineering, Science & Technology Council of Houston; and the Houston Museum of Natural Science and is a member of the International Science Engineering Fair.** Each year foundations, professional societies, businesses, individuals, industrial and technical organizations in the Houston area donate about 85% of the operating funds. More than 1,200 volunteer workers, serving on twelve major committees, are responsible for the many activities associated with the fair. Approximately 1,000 professionals volunteer their services to the fair as judges. SEFH has no employees.

COVERAGE: SEFH has served as the regional fair for all public and private junior and senior high school students in the 16-county surrounding area since 1960. Major regional fair winners are eligible to compete in the annual International Science and Engineering Fair. **Last year marked another successful year with over 1,177. student entries from 127 schools.** Approximately 28,000 projects were entered in the preliminary school/district fair competitions.

EXHIBITS AND AWARDS: The 2007 SEFH projects are scheduled for judging and display March 22-24 at the George R. Brown Convention Center – Hall E. Individual projects will be entered in either the Junior/Middle School (grades 7&8) Division, Ninth Grade Division, or Senior Division (grades 10-12). **Individual project categories** include: behavioral/social science, botany, chemistry, biochemistry/microbiology, computers, earth/space science, engineering, environmental science, mathematics, medicine/health, physics, and zoology. **Team project categories** for the Junior/Middle School Division include: botany/environmental science/zoology; behavioral science/biochemistry/ medicine & health; engineering/computers/mathematics, and physical sciences. For the Ninth Grade, team project categories are Engineering/Physical Sciences and Life Sciences. **In 2006** SEFH awarded **165 “Place Awards”** and **48** businesses, industries, technical societies, government agencies, and educational institutions presented more than **331 “Special Awards,” fellowships, and scholarships.** The two top individual project winners in both the Junior and Ninth Grade Divisions received scholarships from the **American Petroleum Institute.** SEFH also provided three **Teacher of the Year Awards.** Junior Division winners were eligible to enter the national Discovery Young Scientist Challenge competition. All individual project place award winners and the first place team award winners are eligible to enter the State SEF in San Antonio. The four Grand Award winners represented SEFH at the annual International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) in Indianapolis, Indiana. The top award winners in each division were invited to participate in ExpoScience 2006 in Veracruz, Mexico, May 7-13. The 2007 ISEF will be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and ExpoScience 2007 will be held in Durban, South Africa.