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2007 Beal Bank Dallas Regional Science and Engineering Fair Sends Call for Entries

Mailing to local schools provides guidelines for 50th anniversary of competition

Plano, TX— The Beal Bank Dallas Regional Science and Engineering Fair announced that the call for entries to the 50th annual competition will hit local post offices and the Web on Friday, August 11. In confirming the announcement, Fred Olness, Professor of Physics at SMU and lead organizer of the Fair, said, "The call for entries marks the official start of the competition. It includes guidelines for students who are eligible to enter the competition, as well as for the teachers who guide them through the process that culminates with judging next March and awards in April." He added that, "Information will be mailed to teachers who coordinate local fairs, and the call for entries material is also posted on the Fair's website at www.DallasScienceFair.org."

Plano-based Beal Bank continues in its second year as sole title sponsor of the Fair, which provides an annual venue for Dallas-area middle- and high school children to demonstrate their scientific expertise. Students in the Junior and Senior divisions (grades 7-12) submit entries in 30 different categories, from math and chemistry to zoology and behavioral and social sciences. Volunteer judges from area businesses, professional organizations and schools review the entries for creative ability, skill of execution, and thoroughness and clarity of scientific thought. Student winners and their teachers are eligible for prizes and cash awards. Top winners represent their schools and the Dallas community at the International Science & Engineering Fair (ISEF).

Since the first Dallas Regional Science and Engineering Fair in 1958, the event has grown into one of the largest regional student fairs in the United States. In 2006, approximately 800 students from eight counties entered the Fair, and Dr. Olness expects more students to participate this year. "The fact that it's the 50th anniversary of the Fair adds to the event's profile," he noted, adding that, "We hope to be able to

play up the event's history and perhaps do a 'where-are-they-now?' retrospective on past winners at some point during the year. We also have some special extras planned for our 50th celebration, including a presentation by Professor and Nobel Laureate Russell Hulse at our Beal Bank Awards Luncheon."

As this year's Fair officially begins, Molly Curl, Senior Vice President of Beal Service Corporation, commented that, "Beal Bank is pleased to be the title sponsor of the Dallas Regional Science and Engineering Fair during its 50th anniversary. We look forward to helping make the 50th anniversary Fair a special event for the students and teachers and to helping the Fair continue to grow in the future."

The 50th Beal Bank Dallas Regional Science and Engineering Fair will take place March 24-25, 2007, in the Automobile Building at Fair Park. For more information, please visit the Fair's website at www.DallasScienceFair.org or call 214-768-2495.

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