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For release at 3:00 p.m. Central time, April 23, 2007

50th Annual Beal Bank Dallas Regional Science & Engineering Fair to Celebrate Student Achievements

Awards banquet to feature Nobel Laureate keynote speaker

Dallas—The Beal Bank Dallas Regional Science & Engineering Fair Awards Banquet will be held Wednesday, April 25, on the campus of Southern Methodist University (SMU) in Dallas. The Banquet will recognize the achievements of top students at the recent 50th anniversary of the competition, and to help celebrate this special occasion, Nobel Laureate Professor Russell Hulse will present the keynote lecture. The invitation-only luncheon and presentation of awards start at 11:30 a.m. The keynote lecture is open to the public and will take place at 2:00 p.m. in the Hughes-Trigg Student Center Theater on the SMU campus.

In announcing the banquet, Dr. Fred Olness, Professor of Physics at SMU and Fair Director, said he was extremely pleased with this year's 50th Anniversary Fair competition. "Not only was the quality and creativity of the projects this year truly outstanding, but the total number of students who participated also increased, thanks in part to a dramatic increase in participation by students from the Dallas Independent School District (DISD)."

Over the last 50 years, the Dallas Regional Science & Engineering Fair has grown into one of the largest regional science fairs in the United States, with approximately 800 students (grades 7-12) participating in the competition last month. More than 400 students, teachers and parents will attend the Awards Banquet.

Dallas-based Beal Bank, in its second year as the Fair's title sponsor and with a long-standing commitment to excellence in science and mathematics, is pleased with the growth of the Fair during the 10 years the Bank has been involved. Molly Curl, Senior Vice President of Beal Service Corporation, said, "We strongly believe that all students should have the opportunity to prove themselves academically, and we are

gratified that the Fair has grown to include students from across the entire region. We look forward to seeing the students' hard work rewarded at the Awards Banquet."

Keynote speaker Professor Russell Hulse is the Associate Vice President for Research and Economic Development at the University of Texas at Dallas, and a Principal Research Physicist and Distinguished Research Fellow at Princeton University's Plasma Physics Laboratory. In 1993, he shared the Nobel Prize in Physics for the discovery of the first binary pulsar, which enabled testing of Einstein's General Theory of Relativity and resulted in the first observational evidence for the existence of gravitational radiation. In recent years, he has focused on science education initiatives, with a particular emphasis on enhancing the unique role played by science museums and science centers as important educational and cultural resources for our communities.

The Banquet will also feature members of the SMU "Geniuses" Team, who won the richest prize in reality-TV history by solving the dramatic final puzzle at the climax of NBC's "Treasure Hunters." These students put their science education to use as they followed clues and cracked codes around the globe in pursuit of their prime-time triumph. "Now," says Dr. Olness of SMU, "they plan to use their \$3 million windfall to further their educations and help their families."

For more information on the 50th Anniversary Beal Bank Dallas Regional Science and Engineering Fair Awards Banquet, please visit the Fair's website at www.DallasScienceFair.org or call 214-768-2495.

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About Beal Bank: Beal Bank, based in Dallas, Texas, with deposit branches in Texas and California, was founded in 1988 and is a state-chartered savings bank. The Bank has a well-earned reputation as a stable, strongly capitalized financial institution, with assets of almost \$1.5 billion as of December 31, 2006. Beal Bank provides high rates on certificates of deposits and, through affiliates CSG Investments, Inc., Loan Acquisition Corporation, and Beal Mortgage Services, is active in commercial real estate acquisition and development; individual loan and loan portfolio acquisition; and financing and funding loans and participations in loans secured by tangible assets in such industries as real estate; gaming and lodging; energy, power and gas; manufacturing; timber; and transportation and distribution. Beal Bank is a member of the FDIC. For additional information on Beal Bank, please contact Jim Chambless at 469-467-5533 or jchambless@bealservice.com.