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# News Release

## Intel Science Talent Search 2010 Winners Announced

### New Mexico Teen Erika DeBenedictis Awarded \$100,000

#### NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

- Intel Science Talent Search 2010, a program of Society for Science & the Public, announced its top 10 winners in Washington, D.C.
- Winners received \$630,000 in awards with the top winner, Erika DeBenedictis of New Mexico, receiving \$100,000 from the Intel Foundation.

WASHINGTON, D.C., March 16, 2010 – Honoring the next generation of American innovators, Intel Corporation and Society for Science & the Public today announced the winners of America's oldest and most prestigious pre-college science competition, the Intel Science Talent Search. Erika DeBenedictis, 18, of Albuquerque, N.M., won the top award of \$100,000 from the Intel Foundation for her project developing a software navigation system to help improve spacecraft travel through the solar system. Erika's research found that the gravity and movement of planets create "easy transit routes," which will ultimately help spacecraft move faster and with less fuel.

Second place honors and \$75,000 went to David Liu, 18, of Saratoga, Calif., for his work to develop a system to recognize and understand digital images. David's work has already been used to examine aerial images to identify hazards to buried oil pipelines and could also be used to enable unmanned aerial vehicles and Web-based image searches.

Third place honors and \$50,000 went to Akhil Mathew, 18, of Madison, N.J., for his math project on Deligne categories, a setting for studying a wide range of algebraic structures with ties to theoretical physics.

"These 40 Intel Science Talent Search finalists demonstrate that we have the capability in this country to cultivate the next generation of innovators, scientists and entrepreneurs," said Intel President and CEO Paul Otellini. "These young scientists are proof that curious, eager minds coupled with inspiring, knowledgeable teachers are the foundation for world-changing innovation."

Other top honors from the competition include:

**Fourth Place:** Lynnelle Ye, 18, Palo Alto, Calif., received a \$40,000 award for her project that provided strategies for winning at a computer game titled “Graph Chomp.”

**Fifth Place:** Eric Brooks, 16, Hewlett, N.Y., received a \$30,000 award for his research studying racial genetic factors that may affect the spread of prostate cancer.

**Sixth Place:** John Capodilupo, 18, of Grand Rapids, Mich., received a \$25,000 award for his project that used cluster analysis of objects in the night sky to study the structure and evolution of the early universe.

**Seventh Place:** Benjamen Sun, 17, of Grand Forks, N.D., received a \$25,000 award for his work studying how sand, dust and other debris on city streets can adsorb\*\* pollutants from rain and, thus, contaminate city water sources.

**Eighth Place:** Katherine Rudolph, 18, of Naperville, Ill., received a \$20,000 award for her math project that investigated dense packing of identical spheres, the results of which can be used in fields from chemistry to cryptology.

**Ninth Place:** Yale Fan, 18, of Beaverton, Ore., received a \$20,000 award for his research that demonstrated the advantages of quantum computing in performing difficult computations.

**Tenth Place:** Linda Zhou, 18, of River Edge, N.J., received a \$20,000 award for her project that researched how to reverse drug resistance in breast cancer cells.

The remaining 30 finalists each received at least \$7,500 in awards.

This year's Intel Science Talent Search finalists hail from 18 states and represent 36 schools. Of the 1,736 high school seniors who entered the Intel Science Talent Search 2010, 300 were announced as semifinalists in January. Of those, 40 were chosen as finalists and invited to Washington, D.C., to compete for the top 10 awards.

The Intel Science Talent Search encourages students to tackle challenging scientific questions and develop the skills necessary to solve the problems of tomorrow. Over the past 68 years, Science Talent Search finalists have gone on to win seven Nobel Prizes, two Fields Medals, three National Medals of Science and 11 MacArthur Foundation Fellowships.

Society for Science & the Public, a nonprofit organization dedicated to public engagement in scientific research and education, has owned and administered the Science Talent Search since its inception in 1942.

“The Science Talent Search was founded on the idea that scientific accomplishment is the first step on the road toward solving the world’s most challenging problems,” said Elizabeth Marincola, the organization’s president. “Society for Science & the Public is proud to join Intel in congratulating Erika and all of the Intel Science Talent Search 2010 finalists. Their hard work and dedication will inspire other budding scientists to take their first steps down the road of discovery.”

More information can be found on the Intel Science Talent Search 2010 at [www.intel.com/pressroom/kits/events/sts2010](http://www.intel.com/pressroom/kits/events/sts2010). To view ongoing updates about the Intel Science Talent Search 2010, join the Facebook group at [www.facebook.com/pages/Inspired-by-Education/32855637280](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Inspired-by-Education/32855637280) and follow Twitter updates at [www.twitter.com/intelinspire](http://www.twitter.com/intelinspire). To learn more about Society for Science & the Public, visit [www.societyforscience.org](http://www.societyforscience.org).

### **The Intel Education Initiative**

Intel's commitment to education extends far beyond the Intel Science Talent Search. Over the past decade alone, Intel has invested more than \$1 billion, and its employees have donated more than 2.5 million hours toward improving education in 50 countries. To learn more about the Intel Education Initiative, visit [www.intel.com/education](http://www.intel.com/education) and the CSR@Intel blog at [blogs.intel.com/csr](http://blogs.intel.com/csr). To join Intel's community of people sharing their stories with the hope of becoming a catalyst for action and a voice for change in global education, visit [www.inspiredbyeducation.com](http://www.inspiredbyeducation.com).

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– 30 –

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\*\*Note to Editors: “adsorb” is cq.

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