

SCIENCE OLYMPIAD

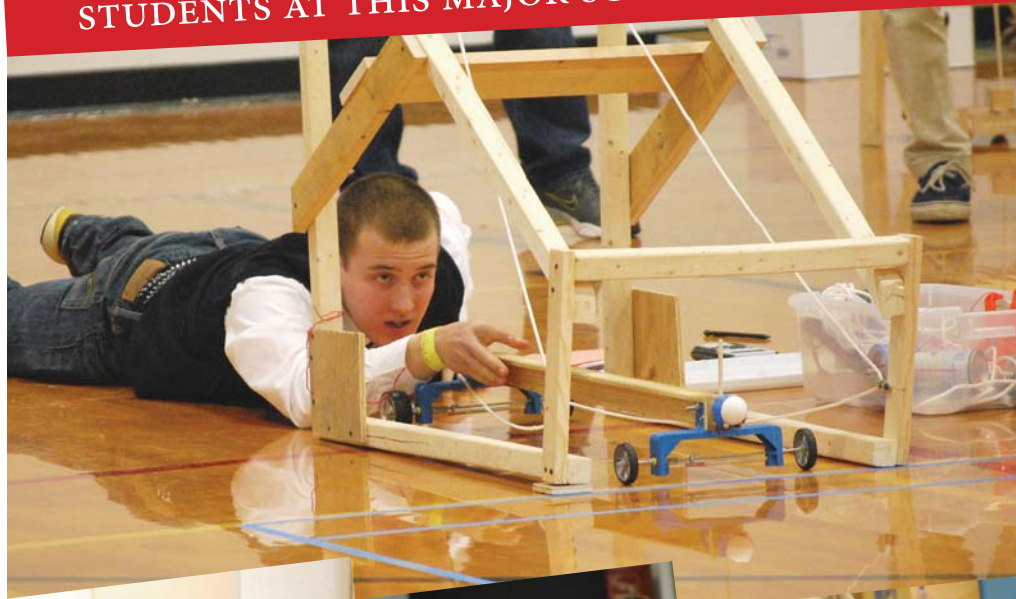
DEFIANCE COLLEGE HOSTS NEARLY 700 STUDENTS AT THIS MAJOR SCIENTIFIC EVENT

by Michele Tinker, Director of Annual Giving

What's a terrific way to present Defiance College to hundreds of the area's best and brightest junior high and high school students? Host the Northwest Ohio Science Olympiad on campus, and make a scholarship available to participants who choose to attend DC. On March 1, for the second year, the Northwest Ohio Science Olympiad was conducted at Defiance College, drawing 675 junior high and high school students from more than 40 schools.

Science Olympiad, which calls itself the nation's most exciting science competition, conducts rigorous standards-based challenges in all STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) disciplines throughout the country. Schools come together to compete in a full range of topics -- from anatomy to physics and technological problem solving. Teams of students worked in events with such titles as Reach for the Stars, The Wright Stuff, and Rotor Egg Drop. Some challenges included building helicopters, robots and vehicles. Another, entitled Write It Do It, challenged pairs of students working together to write a description of an object built out of LEGOs and build it according to the description.

Putting on this one-day event is a huge undertaking for a college the size of Defiance, and overseeing the project this year was Steffanie Brumett of the Institutional Advancement department. The competitions, tests and score sheets are outlined in detail by the national organization, and the line-up of events changes from year to year, so even though this is the college's second year hosting, it's not simply a matter of repeating what was done before.



Working closely with associate professor of biology Dr. Nathan Griggs and the rest of the science faculty, Brumett assured that each event had what it needs in terms of space, volunteers, and equipment, whether that means a scientific scale or a dozen eggs. Reserving rooms, securing parking, even arranging for meals for the additional 700 people on campus is all part of the organization process.

About 40 volunteers assisted, a mix of DC students, alumni and community members. Volunteers helped prepare the tests for the competitions, oversaw events, assisted with scoring and just helped out around campus.

"The event was a blast to work," said Abby Sharp '09, '11. "It was great seeing first-hand the enthusiasm these students had for science." Plus it's a great way to give back to DC, Sharp added. She's looking forward to volunteering at next year's event.

This year at the awards ceremony, Defiance College President Mark Gordon announced that any junior or senior Science Olympiad participant who chose to attend Defiance College after high school would be eligible for a \$10,000 scholarship. This news was received with great enthusiasm by the students and the many parents who attended.