Los Alamos
NATIONAL LABORATORY

Supercomputing Challenge

Program Description

The Challenge is an academic, year-long program that teaches mid school and high school students how to use powerful computers to model real-world problems and to explore

computational approaches to their solutions. Teams of up to five students compete for prizes and scholarships, conducting independent research on scientific problems of interest to them. The Supercomputing Challenge is an exciting program that offers a truly unique experience for students in our state. Throughout the program, help and support are given to the teams by their project advisors and the Supercomputing Challenge organizers and sponsors.

FY12 Data/Impacts

LANL funding: Approximately $60K and half-time support of a Scientist 3. CCS Division provided $10K to be given for scholarships to Challenge seniors

Primary sponsors (50K/year): 1
Educational partners (event hosts, scholarships, and mentors): 20
Commercial partners:
   Gold (10K/year): 5
   Silver (5K/year): 3
   Bronze (2.5K/year): 14
Friends of the Supercomputing Challenge (Approximately $500/year): 13

Program cost: $350,000
Cost per participant: $1,000
Program duration: 1 year
Teacher/faculty participants: 74
Student participants: 430
Community volunteers: 90 LANL employees, 50 Sandia Labs employees, universities and businesses.
Scholarships: $42,000 in scholarships were awarded to 20 seniors.
Number of student participants in 22 years: 8,900

Supercomputing Challenge (continued…)

Program Demographics

Hispanic and/or Latino	40%
Economically disadvantaged	30%
Women and/or girls	40%
American Indian and/or Alaskan Native	10%

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