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## **Florida Virtual School Students Take Top Honors at 2007 State Science Olympiad**

(Orlando, FL) – Six (6) Florida Virtual School (FLVS) student teams received top awards – 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, or 3<sup>rd</sup> – at the 2007 State Science Olympiad held on March 23<sup>rd</sup> at the University of Central Florida in Orlando. Sixteen (16) FLVS middle and high school students, who are also members of the FLVS Science Club, competed against over eight hundred (800) students from around the state in inter-scholastic competitions on topics related to biology, earth science, chemistry, physics, problem solving and technology.

FLVS Science Club received three (3) awards in the High School competition and three (3) in the Middle School competition. In the High School competition, FLVS teams earned two first place awards for Chemistry Lab entry by Henry Ma (11<sup>th</sup> grade, Miami) and Mervin Zhao (11<sup>th</sup> grade, Palmetto Bay), a first place award for Disease Detectives entry by Reguli Granger (11<sup>th</sup> grade, St. Petersburg) and two second place awards for Ecology entry by Henry Wa (11<sup>th</sup> grade, Miami) and Mervin Zhao (11<sup>th</sup> grade, Palmetto Bay). In the Middle School competition, FLVS teams received top honors in three categories as well – second place for Ecology by Sean Buchanan (8<sup>th</sup> grade, Jacksonville) and for Balloon Launch Glider by Scotty Kane (7<sup>th</sup> grade, Port Saint Lucie) and a third place award for Rocks and Minerals by Sean Buchanan (8<sup>th</sup> grade, Jacksonville).

“I am proud of every student from the Science Club who participated in this exciting event. It was a great real-life learning opportunity for the students to demonstrate their skills and knowledge. As a virtual school, some of our teams never met face-to-face

until the day of the event, but their online collaboration and preparation demonstrates how effective today's modern communication technologies are in aiding students in achieving their academic goals," stated Meashell Steinwehr, FLVS Science Club Sponsor and Biology Instructor. "Our primary goal was to have fun, but our four months of preparation definitely showed at the competition."

The FLVS Science Club presented Melissa Elie, a senior from West Palm Beach with the Most Valued Participant award. Melissa participated in five events at the state level- Oceanography, Food Science, Rocks and Minerals, Sound of Music, and Write and Do It. She also participated in five additional events at regional Olympiad competition.

Created in 1983, the focus of the Science Olympiad is to increase interest in science and as an alternative to traditional science fairs and single-discipline tournaments. Events in each state's Science Olympiad are designed to recognize the wide variety of skills that students possess from knowledge of scientific facts and concepts to science processes, skills or applications.

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#### *About Florida Virtual School*

Florida Virtual School ([www.flvs.net](http://www.flvs.net)) is a nationally recognized e-Learning model for developing and providing virtual K-12 education solutions to students throughout the country. Founded in 1997 as a pilot project, FLVS began course development with limited enrollment, pioneering Florida's first Internet-based, public high school— complete with online middle and high school curriculum. Today, FLVS serves schools across the nation, offering virtual education solutions for grades 6 to 12, as well as for adults seeking GED alternatives.