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March 31, 2009

State's Science, Technology and Research Communities to Hold Symposium

Senator Rockefeller to give keynote address

Special to Huntingtonnews.net

West Virginia's high-tech community will gather at the Charleston Marriott Town Center on April 14-15 for the Science, Technology and Research (STaR) Symposium, a biennial forum for the state's increasingly competitive science and technology enterprise.

Sessions will focus on the national and state outlooks for scientific research; technology-based economic development and commercialization of intellectual property; cutting-edge research being conducted in West Virginia; and the role of the state's Vision 2015 strategic plan for science and technology.

"This symposium is an opportunity for everyone who has a stake in our state's high-tech future to get together to share research developments, ideas and collaborations," said Dr. Paul Hill, vice chancellor for science and research. "As we steadily increase the amount of state- and federally funded research being done in West Virginia, it becomes important that we have events, like the STaR Symposium, that help us coordinate and focus our efforts."

U.S. Senator John D. "Jay" Rockefeller IV, chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, will give the keynote address at a luncheon on Tuesday, April 14. The symposium program also will feature Dr. Michael Shermer, founding publisher of Skeptic magazine; leading researchers from Marshall University and West Virginia University; Dr. Alberto Ayala, chief of the Climate Change Mitigation and Emissions Branch in the Research Division of the California Air Resources Board; Dr. Jeffrey Glass, director of the Pratt School's Master of Engineering Management Program at Duke University; Dr. Peixuan Guo, Dane and Mary Louise Miller Endowed Chair in Biomedical Engineering at the University of Cincinnati; Dr. Houston T. Hawkins, director of Department of Defense Programs at Los Alamos National Laboratory; Dr. Ashok Krishnamurthy, senior director of research at the Ohio Supercomputer Center; Dr. Norman Shilling, carbon leader for GE Gasification at GE Energy; and Dr. Joseph Strakey, chief technology officer at the U.S. Department of Energy's National Energy Technology Laboratory.

In addition, 32 undergraduate and graduate students will be presenting their research in a competition intended to recognize the "Student Researcher of the Year." West Virginia First Lady Gayle Manchin will present the student awards at dinner on Tuesday, April 14.

The symposium registration fee is $125/person. A complete schedule and online registration are available at www.wvresearch.org. For more information, contact Ginny Painter at ginny.painter@wvresearch.org or by calling (304) 558- 4128, ext. 6.

Sponsors of the STaR Symposium include the National Science Foundation; West Virginia Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (WVEPSCoR); West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission, Division of Science and Research; Marshall University; West Virginia University Research Corporation; Charleston Area Alliance; Bethany College; Fairmont State University; Glenville State College; Shepherd University Research Corporation; West Liberty State College and West Virginia State University. The NASA IV&V Facility - NASA West Virginia Space Grant Consortium is a special partner.

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