

For Immediate Release: Monday, February 9, 2015

## **El Paso Students Win Regional National Science Bowl<sup>®</sup> Competition, Secure Spot in National Finals in Washington, D.C.**

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz today announced that a team of high school students from El Paso, Texas won their regional competition for the 2015 National Science Bowl<sup>®</sup> (NSB) this past weekend and are advancing to compete at the National Finals in Washington, D.C., in April. This year marks the 25<sup>th</sup> time the national competition has been held.

“The National Science Bowl<sup>®</sup> has grown into one of the most prestigious science academic competitions in the country and challenges students to excel in fields vital to America’s future,” U.S. Energy Secretary Moniz said. “I congratulate these students for advancing to the National Finals, where they will be among some of the brightest science and math students from across the country.”

The NSB brings together thousands of middle and high school students from across the country to compete in a fast-paced question-and-answer format where they solve technical problems and answer questions on a range of science disciplines including biology, chemistry, Earth and space science, physics and math.

The team from your area that won their qualifying regional competitions this past weekend and will be advancing to the National Finals is:

Valle Verde Early College High School in El Paso, Texas

A series of 118 regional middle school and high school tournaments are being held across the country from January through March. Winners will advance to represent their areas at the National Science Bowl<sup>®</sup> held from April 30 to May 4 in Washington, D.C., for the final middle school and high school competitions.

The top 16 high school teams and the top eight middle school teams in the National Finals will win \$1,000 for their schools’ science departments. Prizes for the top two high school teams for the 2015 NSB will be announced at a later date.

The high school team that won the 2014 NSB received a nine-day, all-expenses-paid science trip to Alaska, where they learned more about glaciology, marine and avian biology, geology and plate tectonics. The second-place high school team at the 2014 NSB won a five-day, fully guided adventure tour of several national parks, which included a whitewater rafting trip.

Approximately 240,000 students have participated in the National Science Bowl<sup>®</sup> since it was established in 1991, and it is one of the nation’s largest science competitions. More than 14,000 students compete in the NSB each year.

DOE's Office of Science manages the NSB Finals competition. More information is available on the NSB website: <http://www.science.energy.gov/wdts/nsb/>.

###