For Immediate Release

Appleton West High School Prepares to Enter the Lake Sturgeon Bowl

Teams of high school students from throughout Wisconsin will compete in the sixth annual regional competition for the National Ocean Sciences Bowl. The Wisconsin region of the NOSB is known as the Lake Sturgeon Bowl. This year the event will be held on Saturday, February 24, 2007 from 8:00 am until 5:30 pm, at the Engineering and Mathematical Sciences Building on the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee campus. The general public is encouraged to attend as twenty-four teams from throughout Wisconsin compete for the LSB title.

The Lake Sturgeon Bowl is hosted by UWM and the Great Lakes WATER Institute and over 100 scientists and researchers volunteer their time and expertise for the event. The winning team will go on to compete in the finals against 25 other regional champions in the 10th Annual NOSB On April 28-30, 2007. The final competition is made up of first-place winners from 25 regional bowls around the country. The top 25 teams nationwide will receive an all-expenses paid trip to Stony Brook, New York to participate in the national competition.

Wisconsin students will compete in one of two divisions, gold or silver. The competition consists of a full day of 45-minute rounds. During each round students answer approximately 25 rapid-fire short answer and multiple-choice questions and collaborate on two timed critical-thinking exercises. Question categories relate to the oceans and Great Lakes and include mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, geology, geography, ecology and water related sciences. Winning teams advance from the preliminary rounds to the double-elimination round. The winner of the last double-elimination round is crowned as tournament champion.

The NOSB educational program is designed to generate interest in the ocean sciences among high school students. It also informs the public about the importance of the oceans in our daily lives. One of the long-term goals of the program is to foster the next generation of marine scientists, educators and policy makers. Science teachers coach the teams outside of the regular classroom instruction to prepare the students in the subjects of biology, chemistry, geology, and physics of the oceans. The teams also study navigation, geography and the related history and literature of marine sciences.

There are a variety of school and team prizes available for winners. In addition to sportsmanship awards and much needed equipment for schools, past top prizes are enough to impress and motivate any junior scientist. In the 2006 NOSB the top awards ranged from a 3-day field trip aboard a classic schooner; to a VIP tour of the John G. Shedd Aquarium in Chicago; to a one-day scientific voyage onboard the UWM research vessel Neeskay.

For more information about the Lake Sturgeon Bowl and the NOSB please contact Fran Luebke at 414-227-3222 or Csander@uwm.edu. ###