

PRISM Project Honors Outstanding Math & Science Students
More than 150 Rewarded Across 10-County Region; Earn U.S. Savings Bonds

ORLANDO, Fla. (November 12, 2010) – More than 150 student scholars across Central Florida have received honors as PRISM Scholars in this year’s competition to identify the best science and math students across a 10-county region, alongside 40 classroom teachers honored by the regional initiative.

The PRISM Project to Promote Regional Improvement in Science and Math has presented Savings Bonds to 151 students, according to PRISM Executive Director Dr. James Schott. “Many of these are students who have been honored more than once, which one of our major goals as we work with the Central Florida School Boards Coalition toward a goal of our region leading the state and nation in science and math studies improvement,” said Schott.

The 2010 Awards brings the number of students PRISM has recognized to more than 300.

As well, PRISM (which brings business and industry partners together with school boards in Brevard, Hillsborough, Lake, Manatee, Marion, Orange, Osceola, Polk, Seminole and Volusia counties) recognizes classroom teachers for their innovative work in science and math education.

Now in its fourth year, the 2010 PRISM Teacher Recognition Banquet this year honored 40 teachers from across the region at the Orlando Science Center. Nationally recognized educator Dr. S. James Gates Jr., a distinguished alumnus of Orlando’s Jones High School, was the featured speaker. The John S. Toll Professor of Physics and Director of the Center for String and Particle Theory at the University of Maryland, Gates in 2009 was appointed to the U.S. President’s Council of Advisors on Science & Technology and now serves as co-chair of its working group on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) preeminence for the nation.