



Wyoming Department of Education

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

June 11, 2013

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WDE announces scholarship winners for National Youth Science Camp

CHEYENNE – High School Seniors from Laramie and Casper have been awarded scholarships by the Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) to attend the National Youth Science Camp (NYSC) this summer in Charleston (WV).

Recent graduates Lingga Adidharma of Laramie High School and Alan Hatlestad of Kelly Walsh High School in Casper earned the scholarships through their application and work on essays to attend NYSC at no cost. The scholarships will cover the cost of airfare, meals, lodging as well as the educational and recreational programming.

The NYSC in Charleston (WV) is a nearly month-long experience, which balances lectures as well as hands-on research projects presented by scientists from across the nation. Participants in the National Science Camp will also feature an overnight camping trip to the Monogahela National Forest as well as a visit to Washington, D.C.

This was the largest and most competitive field for this award since I've been at the WDE (2009)," said WDE Education Consultant, Dr. Jim Verley. "In any other year any of the top eight candidates would have been going to the National Youth Science Camp.

The selected delegates were selected from a list of applicants and must not only demonstrate academic achievement in science, but also show potential for thoughtful scientific leadership. In her application, Laramie resident, Adidharma said she has previously volunteered at a cleft-lip clinic in Batu, Indonesia as well as her participation in the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair. She also traveled to Antigua as a youth ambassador under the US State Department-funded Partners of America's Youth Ambassador Program.

In her application, Adidharma wrote, “if given the opportunity to participate in the NYSC, I would be able to take academically enticing classes, actively attend presentations given by leading scientists, surround myself in an engaging environment of discovery and, most importantly, become a part of a network of students bonded by our similar passions, not only in science, but also our aspirations to implement science as a way to positively change our world.”

Hatlestad’s application noted the fact he has taken 27 courses in math and science - compared to six required by Kelly Walsh High School for graduation. The Casper native said his interest in science has led him to attend Space Camp in 2011 and the Planet Fest camp in Pasadena, which is hosted by Bill Nye.

“I love science; I love science because I am inquisitive,” Hatlestad wrote in his application. “I hope to communicate this sentiment to the masses - and I hope the chance to meet many others who share my passion will better enable me to do so.”

For more information on the program, contact Dr. Jim Verley at 307-777-5506 or jim.verley@wyo.gov.

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