

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NEWS RELEASE

RENOWNED PHYSICS PROGRAM LOOKS FOR BC'S BRIGHTEST YOUNG SCIENCE STUDENTS

VANCOUVER, B.C. - The Pacific National Exhibition (PNE) is proud to announce the 1st annual **B.C.'s Brightest Minds Competition at Playland**. The competition will feature two person teams of physics students from across British Columbia competing in a one-day event. Each team will be given a series of physics problems, a set of tools required to complete the problems and access to Playland Amusement Park on May 9th. Each question is based on the rides in the park, including Playland's world famous classic Wooden Roller Coaster.

"This is a very exciting opportunity for some of the top students in the province to compete on an even playing field for the title of the brightest physics students in the province," says PNE President and CEO Michael McDaniel.



PNE President and CEO Michael McDaniel, Point Grey Secondary students Michael Gelbart and Jacob Bayless, Rachel Moll and Dr. David Anderson of the University of British Columbia.

PLAYLAND PHYSICS PROGRAM WORLD RENOWNED

It's been nineteen years since high school students from across the Pacific Northwest began participating in the Amusement Park Physics program held annually at Playland Amusement Park. Developed by Surrey high school science teacher Jim Wiese and based on using the principles of physics and mathematics to answer a series of problems involving a number of the theme park's rides, the Amusement Park Physics program has become one of the highlights of the school year for over ten thousand students, and the model for similar programs being done around the world.

In 2004 the University of British Columbia, in conjunction with partner universities in Europe, Australia and Asia, launched an international study on the benefits of hands-on learning for science students at Playland.

"We are extremely proud of this program," says McDaniel. *"The PNE has a tradition of educating young people that goes back generations; this program is a continuation of that commitment."*

Playland and the PNE have partnered with the University of British Columbia, where a team of physics educators will develop the questions, monitor the competition, mark the papers and determine the winners.

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The B.C.'s Brightest Minds Competition will be held May 9th, 2006 at Playland Amusement Park. Every high school in British Columbia, both public and independent, is encouraged to select its two-person team and submit an application to participate by April 14, 2006. To enter visit the PNE's website at www.pne.ca.

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Owned by the City of Vancouver, the Pacific National Exhibition (PNE) is a healthy and vibrant non-profit charity organization dedicated to providing over 3 million visitors a year with first-class cultural, sporting and family entertainment events. Founded in 1910, the PNE operates from a 114-acre site at Hastings Park, a multi-facility venue in Vancouver where the organization operates four business streams: an annual 17-day Fair, Playland Amusement Park, maintenance and care of the Hasting Park site and management of the site's year-round facilities. These facilities are utilized to celebrate a variety of hockey, amateur sporting, music, community, social, cultural and commercial events throughout the year.

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