

State of the Academy

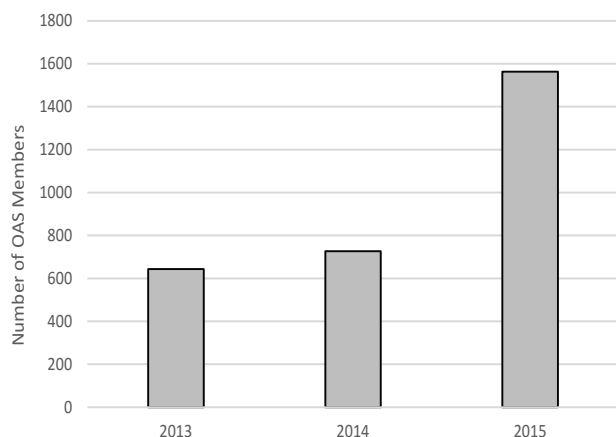
2015



As we close 2015, The Ohio Academy of Science would like to thank all of its Members and Volunteers for their support this year. Below is a brief synopsis of OAS programing from 2015, and a look ahead to what 2016 holds.

Membership

In 2015, The Ohio Academy of Science again saw an increase in individual membership numbers (1403 in 2015 vs 727 in 2014 vs. 643 in 2013, see figure below), as well as participation in Academy programing. In addition to the increase in individual members, the Academy now has 14 institutional members (see page 92 for a complete list) . The Academy would like to thank these institutions for supporting OAS and its mission of promoting science and science education.



Annual Meeting – The 2015 Annual Meeting was held at Capital University on April 11th, with 178 student and professional presentations. The meeting was attended by close to 300 people from all scientific disciplines in Ohio and beyond.

The 2016 meeting will be held on **April 16th at Ohio University**. There will be over 20 universities and colleges represented at the meeting from across Ohio (and beyond), and there will be a second call for college and professional posters open from mid-December to February 1. Complete meeting details, including how to submit an abstract for the second call, can be found on the Annual Meeting webpage:

<http://www.ohiosci.org/am-2016>

Believe in Ohio - On April 25th, the inaugural state competition of the Believe in Ohio program was held at Westerville North High School. Over 2,700 students competed in the first full year of the program, and over 1 million dollars were awarded at the local and state competitions.

Already in the 2015-2016 school year, over 80 schools have enrolled in the program with over 3,600 STEM-commercialization and business plans expected from these schools. Based on these numbers, a significant increase in both the number of schools and students participating are expected. The 2016 state Believe in Ohio competition will be held on **May 7th**. For full details visit:

<http://www.believeinohio.org>

Invention Convention - This year also saw record growth and participation in the Invention Convention program. In the 2014-2015 school year, 103 school districts enrolled in the program. From these schools, over 6,600 students in grades K-8 completed the program and approximately 900 students went on to qualify for one of the three regional competitions held in Cleveland, Columbus, and Cincinnati.

Complete program details for the 2015-2016 school year can be found on the Invention Convention website at:

<http://www.inventionconvention.org>

Buckeye Science and Engineering Fair - In the first year of the return of the Buckeye Science and Engineering Fair (BSEF), OAS hosted 78 student research projects at the 4-H building on the campus of The Ohio State University on April 4th. Of these student scientists, 4 projects qualified to attend the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair as participants and 3 additional students qualified as observers.

Looking forward to 2016, OAS will be able to send 7 projects as participants. The 2016 BSEF will again be sponsored by **Ethicon Endo-Surgery**, and this event would not be possible without their support. Details for the 2016 BSEF that will be held on **Saturday, April 2nd** are posted at:

<http://www.ohiosci.org/bsef>

State Science Day – The Ohio State University hosted the 67th State Science Day on May 16th, 2015 that was attended by 1,150 students in grades 5-12. More than 270 sponsored awards and \$875,000 in scholarships were available. Three hundred and ten schools were represented from 66 counties across Ohio, and State Science Day again had sponsorship from The Ohio State University, American Electric Power, The Ohio Environmental Education Fund, Boehringer Ingelheim Roxane, Inc., Ethicon Endo-Surgery, and Battelle.

The 2016 State Science Day will be held on **Saturday, May 14th** at the French Field House of The Ohio State University. Full details for the 2016 State Science Day can be found at:

<http://www.ohiosci.org/ssd-2016>

The Ohio Journal of Science - Over the past 12 months, OJS has had a 500% increase in manuscript submissions. Moving into its second year with no page charges and an online submission and review system hosted by The Ohio State University, OJS has also shortened its review times and time to print (98 days to publication).

Manuscripts can be submitted and read online at:

<http://www.library.osu.edu/ojs/index.php/ojs>

Looking ahead - OAS in 2016 - Our goal for 2016 is to promote science and education in Ohio by reaching more students and professionals through OAS programing. Believe in Ohio, Invention Convention, and the Buckeye Science and Engineering Fair are all on pace to surpass the number of participants in 2015, and we hope to see this same trend with State Science Day, the Annual Meeting, and submissions to OJS.

With this increase in the number of students and professionals served in Ohio through new programing and increased participation of current programing, we thank our members and volunteers who donate their time to judge students' work, review abstracts for the OAS Annual Meeting, and review manuscripts for OJS in addition to the countless other tasks our members and volunteers help us with throughout the year, thank you. The Academy is able to accomplish so much because of the time and expertise donated by you, the members and volunteers. Thank you for your support, and please contact us at any time if you would like to learn more about how you can become more engaged with the Academy as we strive to achieve our mission, "to foster curiosity, discovery, innovation, and problem-solving skills in Ohio".

Sincerely,



Stephen J. McConoughey, PhD
CEO