

BURGUM ANNOUNCES 2017 NATIONAL YOUTH SCIENCE CAMP REPRESENTATIVES

BISMARCK, N.D. - Governor Doug Burgum announced today that Mona Abdelrahman, Fargo South High School, and Mira May, Fargo North High School, have been selected as the two most promising young scientific leaders in North Dakota's 2017 high school graduating class. At the invitation of Governor Earl Ray Tomblin of West Virginia, they will participate as delegates in the 54th year of the National Youth Science Camp held near the Green Bank Observatory in West Virginia. Martin Altenburg, Fargo; Kory Hermanson, Grafton; Sophia Maliske, Fargo; and Mia Fragoso, Kenmare, have been selected as alternates.

Mona Abdelrahman has a +4.33 weighted grade point average for taking the most difficult and advanced science and math courses her school has to offer. She has received the ND Award for Academic All-State, the US Presidential Scholars, National Center for Women in Technology Aspirations in Computing Award, AP Scholarship Distinction, is a Joyce Ivy Foundation Scholar and is on the Leadership Board for the National Honor Society. She has attended the ND Governor's School for Information Technology, E2@Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) for Aeronautics, PICNICS Research Program at NDSU, and the DSU CyberStarz Cyber Security Camp. She is active in the Knowledge Bowl, Science Olympiad, Math Club, German Club, Peer-Tutoring Program and Key Club. She has worked on synthesizing chiral oxetane groups using the Paterno-Buchi Reaction and blue light technique, and volunteered to develop a software program for a local neonatal doctor that is used to calculate the protein feed for premature babies. She has already been accepted at both the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and the University of Southern California.

Mira May has a +4.29 weighted grade point average for taking the most difficult and advanced science and math courses her school has to offer. She has been fascinated by the hidden world of molecular biology and has investigated the energy content of certain food items in an AP Chemistry lab; designed experiments to demonstrate Newton's Second Law in AP Physics; carried out research at North Dakota State University in a pharmaceutical lab investigating liposomal drug delivery to the brain for the prevention and treatment of Alzheimer's disease; and optimized nanoparticles in order to make them more transfective. She has participated in the North Dakota Governor's School, TechGirls at NDSU, Microsoft's DigiGirlz Summer Camp, and The Perry Initiative Outreach Program for Women in Engineering and Medicine. She is a member of the National Honors Society, an AP Scholar with Honors, a ND Academic All-State Honorable Mention, a Student Council representative, Chair of the Relay for Life Event Leadership Team, Team Captain of the Girls Varsity Tennis, a member of Key Club, French Club, Cross Country Running, and Philanthropy and Youth.

This unique program was developed before the term science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) was coined. Established in 1963 as a part of West Virginia's Centennial Celebration, the National Youth Science Camp, where two delegates representing each state, exchange ideas with leading scientists and other professionals from academic, governmental and corporate worlds. Lectures and hands-on research projects are presented by scientists from across the United States who work on some of the most forward thinking topics in science today - topics such as cyber security, curing Alzheimer's disease, global climate change, invention and innovation, virtual and augmented reality, and the Internet of Things. Delegates to the NYSC are challenged to explore new areas in STEM, art, and music with resident staff members. Delegates also present seminars covering their own areas of research and interest.

The National Youth Science Camp's diverse academic program is complemented by an outdoor recreation program, which leverages the Science Camp's location in the Monongahela National Forest. The Science Camp's outdoor program offers backpacking, caving, rock climbing, mountain biking and kayaking.

Abdelrahman and May will be flown to Charleston, West Virginia, on Wednesday, June 14, and will return home on Sunday, July 8, 2017, after participating in this prestigious STEM education program. The National Youth Science Foundation®, based in Charleston, West Virginia, covers all expenses, including travel. More information is available online at www.nysf.com and www.nysc.org.

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