Dear Science Teacher:

In the spring of 2019, the Nebraska Area Health Education Centers (AHECs) will host five regional science meets for eighth and ninth graders. The Nebraska AHECs have been coordinating regional science meets in Nebraska since 2004. The top students from the regional meets are invited to attend the State Science Experience at the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) in Omaha on June 6 - 8, 2019. During the State Science Experience, students participate in hands-on science and health activities. Through activities such as the science meets, we can work together to “grow our own” health professionals for Nebraska.

If you have questions about how to prepare your students, there are a number of veteran teachers who would be happy to serve as mentors. Contact your local AHEC if you are interested in making this connection.

To make this program successful, we ask that you:

1. Inform all 8th & 9th grade* students in your school/organization about the program.

   * Students in grades 7 – 12 can attend the Scottsbluff meet held in conjunction with the Nebraska Junior Academy of Science (NJAS.) NJAS winners from each grade are eligible for the NJAS State Science Fair in Lincoln in April.

2. Supply all interested students with copies of the Student Information Sheet and send the registration form home to be signed by a parent/guardian. Collect $10 registration fee for each participating student. Lunch will be provided at the Regional Science Meets. Every student will receive a T-shirt. Contact the sponsoring AHEC if you need to request student fee waivers.

3. Complete the community contact forms for any teacher who is going to be a primary contact between your school and the sponsoring AHEC.

4. Mail, fax, or e-mail both sides of the completed student registration forms along with the community contact form to the AHEC organizing the event you plan to attend.

5. **If you are having trouble meeting the registration deadline**, please contact the appropriate AHEC. While waiting for your paperwork to arrive at a later date, the AHEC can still recruit enough judges, order food, etc. if they know how many students are planning to attend.

6. Notify students that projects must be done individually in order to qualify for consideration to attend the UNMC State Science Experience in June.

7. Prepare students to talk with judges for 2-3 minutes about their display board showing their project, process and results.
Contact your local AHEC if you would like someone to come to your school and give a presentation about the science meets.

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