Over 140 students and teachers representing 11 schools attended the annual fall meeting of the Indiana Junior Academy of Science held at Indiana University Bloomington on November 15, 2002.

The following six activities comprise the major portion of the Junior Academy meeting:

1. **The Problem Solving Exam**
   This exam provides students with a fun and meaningful exercise in scientific knowledge and problem-solving skills. Two students from each school who are selected by their sponsoring teacher take the exam. Certificates are awarded to the top three individual winners and to the top three schools with the highest combined scores.

   This year’s winners were:
   - **Individual Students**
     - 1st: Mr. Matt Goldey, Noblesville High School
     - 2nd: Mr. Chris Fruth, Northwestern High School
   - **Top Schools**
     - 1st: Northwestern
     - 2nd: Noblesville High School
     - 3rd: Orleans High School

2. **The Issues Presentation Competition**
   This competition encourages students to learn about the political, social, and scientific issues surrounding the selected topic. This year, the topic was “Should scientific journals include articles from scientists about work that is being funded by corporations?” Each competitor gives a five minute presentation on the topic without the use of visual aids. The students are judged by a panel of peers, and the finalists are then judged by a panel of teachers. A plaque is awarded to the winning student.

   This year’s winners were:
   - 1st: Miss Emily Drabek, Eastern High School
   - 2nd: Mr. Colin Ethier, Marian High School
   - 3rd: Miss Logan Ping, Warren Central High School
   - 4th: Miss Chrissie Thompson, Northwestern High School

3. **The Research Paper Competition**
   This competition allows students who have carried out an original scientific investigation the opportunity to present their work publicly. Students who wish to compete in this event submit an abstract of their work to the IJAS Director in early October. The abstracts are reviewed by a panel of impartial judges, and twelve student finalists are selected. At the IJAS meeting, these students give a 10-minute poster presentation to a panel of judges who evaluate them on originality, research procedures, and presentation skill. The first place winner receives a $1,000 scholarship from the Hoosier Association of Science Teachers to attend any Indiana College or University.
This year’s winners were:

3rd place (tie) Miss Emily Drabek Eastern High School
3rd place (tie) Mr. Brandon Hood Noblesville High School
2nd place Miss Kelley Lancelle Eastern High School
1st place (tie) Miss Dawn Dietrich Eastern High School
1st place (tie) Mr. Reid Merryman Marian High School

4. The Outstanding Junior Scientist Competition
This event recognizes those students who are exemplary in overall scholarship as well as scientific ability and achievement. Each school may nominate one student for this competition. Seven of the nominees are then selected to compete at the IJAS meeting, where they are interviewed by a panel of judges. The Outstanding Junior Scientist is selected based upon his/her academic record, involvement in original research and extracurricular scientific activities, and the interview. The Outstanding Junior Scientist receives a $1,000 scholarship from the Indiana Academy of Science to attend any Indiana College or University.

This year’s winners were:

3rd place Mr. Brandon Hood Noblesville High School
2nd place Miss Sheena Hayes Eastern High School
1st place Mr. Reid Merryman Marian High School

5. The Outstanding School Award
The Outstanding School Award is given to the school with the most participation points. To calculate this score, credit is given for every abstract submitted, more credit for those abstracts accepted for the Research and for Outstanding Junior Scientist competitions, and finally for rank scores for the top presentations. Each school received credit for entering students in the Issues Competition, for having a judge at the Issues presentations, and for entering students in the Problem Solving Exam. More credit was given to the winners.

The top three schools and the teachers representing them today are:

3rd place Northwestern High School Mrs. Patricia Zeck
2nd place Marian High School Mr. Ken Andrzejewski
1st place Eastern High School Sharon McElroy

6. Educational Tours
Educational tours were given twice during the day to give all students attending an opportunity to get an up-close and personal look at some of the great research opportunities the IU Bloomington campus has to offer. These tours consisted of a tour of the Anthropological Center for Training and Research, IU Art Museum, The Center for Genomics and Bioinformatics, and ATLAS experiment particle detector assembly area.