

MAY 20, 2008

ALBUQUERQUE JOURNAL

## Science Fairs Supply Invaluable Venue

THE JOURNAL'S article and editorial about science fairs addressed a serious problem with Albuquerque Public Schools science policy. It is common that a high school whose population numbers in the thousands is represented by fewer than 10 students at the regional and state science fairs.

It seems that the major focus is on underperforming students with the federal No Child Left Behind Act. Science and indeed other courses — besides reading and math — are consequently under funded and more importantly may not receive the attention or direction that would promote excellence.

Obviously, this will have some effect on our future doctors, scientists, politicians and educators. What venues are there for them to explore the scientific method, to write about and orally present complex ideas, to discuss their research with the best minds in their field, and not infrequently to publish their work?

Besides the science fairs, I can think of none.

What should be done? Establish policies that would promote science — give credit for independent study, have the AP students participate in the fair and give teachers some incentive for their involvement or mentorship by either giving free time, pay or advancement to a higher level.



EDUCATION

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