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## **NEWS RELEASE - For immediate release**

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Organization: Solano County Office of Education

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## Solano 2022 Virtual Science and Engineering Fair Registration Is Open

**Solano County, CA**- Registration for the Solano 2022 Virtual Science and Engineering Fair competition is open. Solano County Office of Education's (SCOE) countywide competition has three divisions: elementary school (grades 3-5), middle school (grades 6-8), and high school (grades 9-12). Each division has three categories: Earth Science, Physical Science, and Life Science. Students' projects will be reviewed and judged by representatives from various universities. Top middle and high school winners will be eligible to enter the California State Science and Engineering Fair in April 2022. Visit <a href="www.solanocoe.net/sciencefair">www.solanocoe.net/sciencefair</a> to register online, by 3 p.m. on February 25, 2022, and to access detailed information about this year's competition.

"We are honored to host the 2022 Solano County Science and Engineering Fair. It is vitally important that our elementary, middle, and high school students have opportunities, such as this, to apply science and engineering skills, investigate theories, collect and evaluate, evidence, and develop scholarly conclusions. SCOE is motivated to inspire more students to explore careers in science, engineering, and related fields," said Solano County Superintendent of Schools Lisette Estrella-Henderson.

Parents and community members are cordially invited to celebrate students' achievements and view their projects online, March 17, 2022, from 4:00–5:45 p.m. followed by a virtual awards ceremony from 6:00–7:30 p.m. A link will be posted on SCOE's website homepage at <a href="https://www.solanocoe.net">www.solanocoe.net</a> prior to the event in March. Medals, trophies, and prizes will be awarded to winners.

Careers in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) grew 18.7% between 2010-2020, compared to 14.3% for all other occupations, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. This rapid growth has created a STEM worker shortage in the U.S. To address this, the Solano County Office of Education is joining widespread efforts to boost interest in STEM among students.

For more information about the Science and Engineering Fair contact Lilibeth Pinpin, director of innovative programs and student success, at <a href="mailto:lipinpin@solanocoe.net">lipinpin@solanocoe.net</a> or 707-399-4439.

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Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) provides leadership, support, and fiscal oversight for Benicia, Dixon, Fairfield-Suisun, Travis, Vacaville, and Vallejo school districts which serve approximately 63,000 students. Solano County Superintendent of Schools, Lisette Estrella-Henderson is elected by voters of Solano County. The Superintendent is a state constitutional officer who serves as the chief executive officer of SCOE and as a liaison between local school districts and the state.