



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Lori Harrison, (703) 684-2480

[lharrison@wef.org](mailto:lharrison@wef.org)

June 27, 2011

### **New Jersey Student to Represent U.S. in International Stockholm Junior Water Prize Competition**

ALEXANDRIA, Va. – Alison Bick of Short Hill, N.J. was named the U.S. winner of the 2011 Stockholm Junior Water Prize (SJWP)—the most prestigious international competition for water-related research—during a ceremony this past weekend at the Palmer House Hilton in Chicago, Ill.

Bick's project, "Development and Evaluation of a Microfluidic Co-Flow Device to Determine Water-Quality", was selected from more than 40 state SJWP winners at the national competition held in Chicago from June 23-25.

Concerned by the threat of contaminated drinking water from events such as natural or man-made disasters, Bick sought a low-cost, portable and publicly accessible method for testing water potability. Her research concluded that a combination of microfluidics, cell-phones, and Colilert-18—a chemical that becomes yellow in the presence of coliform bacteria and a water sample in a single channel—is a novel way of determining several water qualities.

"Miss Bick's project dealt with an emerging technology and associated issues that were clearly state-of-the-art science," said Mohamed F. Dahab, Chair of the SJWP Review Committee. "Overall, we were very impressed with the high caliber of research and creativity presented by all of the young men and women who participated in this year's competition."

Bick received \$3,000 (USD) and an all-expense paid trip to Stockholm, Sweden, where she will compete against national winners from more than 30 countries for the international honor during World Water Week, August 21-27, 2011. HRH Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden will present the international award—\$5,000 and crystal sculpture—during a royal ceremony held in conjunction with the Stockholm Water Symposium.

Bick's school, Millburn High School, will receive a \$1,000 grant toward enhancing water science education and she will have the opportunity to present her research to thousands of water quality professionals at WEFTEC® 2011—the Water Environment Federation's 84<sup>th</sup> annual technical exhibition and conference—this October in Los Angeles, Calif.

Four U.S. finalists, Jenifer Brown from Hillsborough, N.C., Collin McAliley of Melbourne Beach, Fla., Leila Musavi from Orono, Maine, and Nishith Reddy from Naperville, Ill., also received a \$1,000 award.

In addition to being a finalist, Musavi was also the first recipient of the Bjorn von Euler Innovation in Water Scholarship for her project, "Development and Optimization of Gold-Nanoparticle Modified Carbon Electrode Biosensor for Detection of *Listeria Monocytogenes*". The award recognizes projects that demonstrate a unique passion for education and awareness of sustainable water

management. New this year, the \$1,000 scholarship honors the valuable work and contributions of former WEF Board member and retired ITT Corporation communications director, Bjorn von Euler.

The Water Environment Federation sponsors the U.S. SJWP with support from ITT Corporation (also the international sponsor), The Coca-Cola Company, and Delta Airlines. The Illinois Water Environment Association hosted the 2011 national competition and Bick received sponsorship from the New Jersey Water Environment Association.

[Click here](#) for more information about the SJWP and to download the winning papers.

**Note to editors:** Please contact Lori Harrison at [lharrison@wef.org](mailto:lharrison@wef.org) for a high resolution image of the winner.

#### **About WEF**

Formed in 1928, the Water Environment Federation (WEF) is a not-for-profit technical and educational organization with 36,000 individual members and 75 affiliated Member Associations representing water quality professionals around the world. WEF and its Member Associations proudly work to achieve our mission of preserving and enhancing the global water environment.

[www.wef.org](http://www.wef.org)