Addendum to Category Judging

Projects are to be judged for First, Second, Third or Honorable Mention ribbon relative to the ISEF judging criteria, taking into consideration the grade level of the student. Each project is to be judged relative to itself and the criteria, rather than relative to others in its category. Thus, all projects in a category could be awarded a first place ribbon (rare) or no project could be awarded a first place (also rare).

A project which deserves a first place ribbon is one in which all criteria are well satisfied. A second place might be awarded to a project somewhat deficient in one or more categories. A third place might be awarded to a project which is seriously deficient in one or more categories, but which displays a significant effort or learning experience (e.g., a "good try"). Projects which fail to meet any of the above would be awarded the Honorable Mention ribbon - however you should try to use this sparingly.

The decision of the judges should be made by circling the appropriate level on the front of the judging card, and constructive criticism and/or encouragement should be offered in the space for comments on the back of the cards. Comments are extremely important to the students, as they offer tangible evidence of the interest of the judges in their work. These cards are to be turned in to the table at the foot of the stage. The appropriate ribbon will then be attached, and at the conclusion of judging will be returned to the students.

Again, many thanks for participating in this important educational activity!