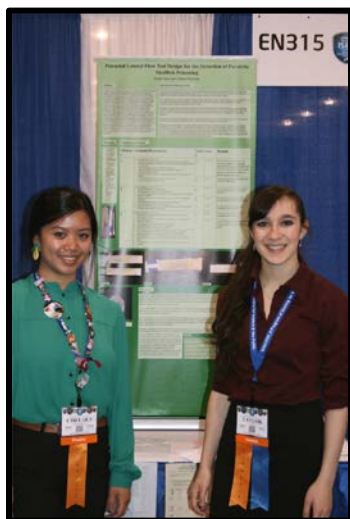


Alaska BioPREP High School Students Receive National Recognition



Chelsea Parrocha and Taylor Seitz
with their project poster at the Intel
ISEF in Phoenix, AZ.
(Photo taken by Alan Sorum)

Since its inception, the Alaska BioPREP TIPS program, funded by an NIH SEPA grant, has brought biotechnology instruction to over 680 students statewide. Recently two of these students from Polaris High School in Anchorage received national recognition for their science fair project, *Potential Lateral Flow Test Design for the Detection of Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning*. Chelsea Parrocha and Taylor Seitz developed this project with teaching and guidance from Aaron Kallas, BioPREP TIPS Coordinator and high school teacher.

In March, Parrocha and Seitz competed with their project at the 58th Annual Alaska Science & Engineering Fair (ASEF) in Anchorage, which hosted 386 students from 32 Alaskan communities. They won several awards, including best project in the cellular and microbiology category and placed second overall at ASEF. Parrocha and Seitz were chosen to represent Alaska at the INTEL International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) in Phoenix, AZ, receiving the title of 2013 Finalists of INTEL ISEF.



Chelsea and Taylor
working on their project
at Polaris High School.

In addition to this prestigious achievement, Taylor and Chelsea were named Alaska's state winners of the 2013 Stockholm Junior Water Prize (SJWP) competition. SJWP, whose purpose is to increase students' interest in water-related issues and research, is considered to be the most prestigious youth award for a water-related science project. Chelsea and Taylor represented Alaska at the national competition in June in Portland, Oregon.