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For Immediate Release

Contact: Diane Martin
McCullough & Associates
dtm@mccanda.com
404-325-1606

STUDENT WINS ATLANTA METROPOLITAN AREA LOCAL CHALLENGE AND MOVES ON TO STATE COMPETITION

Atlanta, GA, March 24, 2017 — An eighth-grader from Atlanta has won the local chemistry competition. Kiran Gadde from The Westminster Schools bested a field of 40 fifth- to eighth-grade students to become the Atlanta Metropolitan Area Local *You Be The Chemist* Challenge® Champion. Local students came together at the Georgia Aquarium to compete for the top prize. Kiran Gadde will represent the Atlanta Metropolitan Area at the state-level competition.

Developed by the Chemical Educational Foundation® (CEF), the Challenge is an exciting question-and-answer competition that motivates fifth- to eighth-grade students to sharpen their knowledge of chemistry concepts and chemistry's real-world applications. Students compete for prizes at the local and state levels. Each state winner will receive an expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C. to compete in the National Challenge on June 19 and to vie for \$18,500 total in college scholarships. The Challenge program relies on partnerships among community members, including industry, schools, universities, and community organizations, that seek to foster student engagement with science.

The 2017 Atlanta Metropolitan Area Local Challenge was sponsored by McCullough & Associates of Atlanta, GA. After correctly answering dozens of chemistry and general science questions over multiple rounds of competition, Kiran Gadde was declared the Atlanta Metropolitan Area Local Challenge Champion. He will advance to the Georgia State Challenge to be held at the Georgia Institute of Technology's Molecular Science & Engineering Building in Atlanta April 29, 2017. The top 20 students have also earned a chance to compete at the state level:

Campbell Middle School – Lyric Love
Cornerstone Schools – Angelina Laramie
Desana Middle School - Zahin Hoque, Haley McLain
Dickerson Middle School – Kevin Chae
Henderson Middle School – Austin Beale, Mary Bielamowicz, Susannah Dolensky
J.C. Booth Middle School – Mark Adams, Caden Gradek (4th Place), Alex Norman

Lyndon Academy – Matthew Chan, Luke Piazza

Mabry Middle School – Jack Coleman, Michael McCabe, Neha Prabakaran

South Forsyth Middle School – Tapasya Katta

The Westminster Schools – Kiran Gadde (Champion), Matthew Propp (2nd Place), Yash Kadadi (3rd Place)

Congratulations to all the participating students and special thanks to the sponsoring teachers who impact students' lives each day with science and chemistry.

For more information about the *You Be The Chemist* Challenge® competition, please visit CEF's website at www.chemed.org.

About the Chemical Educational Foundation®

Founded in 1989 and headquartered in Arlington, VA, the Chemical Educational Foundation® (CEF) works closely with industry to enhance science education opportunities for our youth. CEF debuted the *You Be The Chemist* Challenge® in 2004.

About McCullough & Associates

McCullough & Associates is a regional chemical sales agency founded in 1968 with corporate headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia. They have been members of the National Association of Chemical Distributors since 1995 and supporters of the Chemical Educational Foundation since its inception. This is their third year sponsoring a Local Challenge for CEF and their first year partnering with Georgia Aquarium. This successful partnership was appreciated by the student participants, their families, and teachers alike. McCullough & Associates would like to express their sincere thanks to the Aquarium!

About Georgia Aquarium

Through their Department of Education, headed by Kristyn Tumbleson, Georgia Aquarium hosted this year's Atlanta Metropolitan Area Local Challenge for the first time. Harry Webb, Project Coordinator, Research & Conservation at the Aquarium served as a Judge for the Challenge and spoke to participants during a competition break. Mr. Webb demonstrated some of the new technology developed by the Aquarium and how the Aquarium's various departments use all areas of the sciences for their multi-faceted programs. The participants were delighted to experience an exclusive behind-the-scenes tour of the Aquarium after the competition.

