



## ***A Day to Remember! 160 Teams Compete at Connecticut Odyssey of the Mind's 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Tournament!***

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

*Brookfield, Connecticut – March, 22, 2017*

**Connecticut Odyssey of the Mind (CTOM)** held its 36<sup>th</sup> Annual State Tournament on Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at **Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU)** in New Haven.

**Odyssey of the Mind (OM)** is the largest international creative problem-solving competition in the world with millions of students contending since OM's inception in 1979. OM is **STEAM** focused employing concepts from science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics, in conjunction with critical thinking, creativity, and teamwork.

CTOM's 36<sup>th</sup> Tournament saw student teams in primary, middle, and high school address one of five Problems, such as constructing a vehicle, creating a new take on a classic, building a balsa wood structure, or solving a mechanical dilemma. While each team has an adult coach, they met for months to solve the problem in their own way with absolutely *no outside assistance* from their coach, teachers, or parents. Each of the Team's finished solutions were presented on Saturday as an eight-minute performance.

160 teams, totaling 1,015 children from all over Connecticut, competed in four divisions by age group in the day-long Tournament. Their unique presentations were eagerly assessed by a slate of 212 Judges and viewed by a capacity crowd of anxious coaches and loving parents, grand-parents, family, and friends. In holding such a thrilling day of competition, CTOM's Board of Directors, Problem Captains, and Judges were joined by an additional 164 Volunteers who helped organize performances at ten separate sites across the SCSU campus.

The Tournament culminated with Closing Ceremonies, ably emceed by **FOX61's Sarah Cody**, and opened with special entertainment by the **Carnival Trio Caribbean** steel band. **CTOM President, Dave Schaller**, and the Problem Captains then awarded CTOM 2017 Medals to the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place teams which, with ties, qualified thirty-four teams, and their 217 students, to advance to the **Odyssey of the Mind 2017 World Finals at Michigan State University** May 24-27.

*All success at the Worlds to our wonderful Teams!*

CTOM thanks all the teams, coaches, volunteers, and parents - and especially our continuing partners, **3M, Praxair, General Electric, UTC Aerospace, Nestlé Waters, and SCSU** - for making 2017 yet another year to remember!

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