HAMPTON, N.H. — (May 1, 2015) — Renewable energy provider Wheelabrator Technologies Inc. has announced naturalist David Mizejewski of the National Wildlife Federation will be the keynote speaker at the 21st annual Wheelabrator Symposium for Environment and Education. The event will be held in Columbia, Maryland May 4-7. Mizejewski will be joined by luminaries Dr. Bryan Kent Wallace of Fisk University, Dr. Merilyn Johnson from Broward County Florida Public Schools and Casey E. Shaw of Portsmouth, Virginia’s Elizabeth River Project — all named to the event’s VIP panel.

With a theme of “Working Together to Build Sustainable Communities,” this year’s Wheelabrator Symposium will take place at the Sheraton Columbia Town Center Hotel, 10207 Wincopin Circle. Under the guidance of teachers and Wheelabrator employee-volunteers, student teams research, develop and implement long-term solutions to community environmental issues. On Tuesday, May 5, 120 middle school students from 12 schools will present their innovative environmental projects to the panel of scientists and educators.

Mizejewski will deliver the keynote address at the Symposium’s awards ceremony the evening of May 5, inspiring middle school attendees with the story of his personal journey to becoming a national conservationist. As the National Wildlife Federation’s celebrity naturalist and media spokesperson, Mizejewski focuses on teaching the American public how to help wildlife, connect with nature and live sustainably. He hosted and co-produced the Animal Planet TV series Backyard Habitat and regularly appears on The Today Show, Conan and networks ranging from NatGeo WILD to History. He is author of the award-winning book Attracting Birds, Butterflies and Other Backyard Wildlife and contributes to Birds and Blooms magazine and Animal Planet’s Animal Bites blog.

“I’m delighted to be part of the Wheelabrator Symposium and salute young people who are stepping up to become environmental leaders in their communities,” Mizejewski said. “Each of us can make a difference in protecting wildlife and the environment right where we live, and these students are showing us the way.”

Director of Physics Laboratories and a physics faculty member at Fisk University in Nashville, Dr. Bryan Kent Wallace is the primary investigator for the University’s Rocket Science Program. Wallace is extensively engaged in guiding university students into science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) careers, as well as mentoring programs...
aimed at building self-efficacy in K-12 under-represented populations. Wallace has served on the Symposium VIP panel since 2010.

Dr. Merilyn Johnson serves as the STEM Supervisor and Curriculum Science Specialist for Broward County Public Schools in Florida. Publisher of several peer-reviewed articles on crystallization and characterization of enzyme complexes, Dr. Johnson has worked as a science department head and science teacher, where she has taught life, physical and comprehensive science for the past 13 years. Johnson also served as a VIP panelist for the 2014 Wheelabrator Symposium.

Casey Shaw is the Grassroots Coordinator at the Elizabeth River Project in Portsmouth, Virginia, a non-profit organization focused on restoring the Elizabeth River to the highest practical level of environmental quality. As a Norfolk, Virginia, native, Shaw grew up fishing and now actively participates in the Virginia Institute of Marine Science Game Fish Tagging Program. She graduated from the College of William & Mary with a double major in Government and Environmental Policy. This is her first year as a VIP panelist.

A global leader in converting post-recycled waste and other renewable fuels into clean energy, Wheelabrator Technologies’ commitment to sustainability extends to environmental awareness, education and community engagement. For 21 years, the company’s Environmental Symposium has been a cornerstone of those initiatives, during which time it empowered more than 3,000 students throughout the U.S. to become leaders in their communities.

Based on Wheelabrator’s belief that environmental awareness must be grounded in fundamental science, and that businesses and communities should help educators introduce real-life experiences to young adults, the Symposium enriches all those who participate and creates experiences that students remember for a lifetime.

Headquartered in Hampton, New Hampshire, Wheelabrator creates clean, renewable energy from everyday residential and business waste. Wheelabrator has a current platform of 15 energy-from-waste facilities, four independent power-producing facilities, four ash monofills and three waste transfer stations. Wheelabrator has an annual waste processing capacity of over 7.4 million tons, and a total combined electric generating capacity of 768 megawatts — enough energy to power more than 645,000 homes. Wheelabrator facilities also recover metals from ash for recycling into commercial products. For more on Wheelabrator, please visit www.wtienergy.com.

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