

Award:

The Jason Project won the Best Science or Health Curriculum category at the CODiEs for *Operation: Tectonic Fury* to which ORNL staff contributed. Awarded by Software and Information Industry Association, this is a highly competitive and prestigious award for online educational publishers, game developers and software programmers. The judges for the education categories come from industry, schools, colleges and universities and looked at all of the online content including the text, photos, technical art, games, videos, and teacher resources like tests and classroom handouts of Tectonic Fury. This project was suggested by Martin Keller and led by Virginia Dale with expert advice provided by Esther Parish. Amy Johnson and Sam Jackson from the University of Tennessee helped engage the middle school students and teacher in sampling soils under switchgrass in fields near Vonore, Tennessee. The soils were analyzed under the guidance of Deanne Brice and Charles Garten. Mike Hilliard and Alex Sorokine shared model results about the sustainability implications of energy crops via the Everest display. Bobby Whitten showed the students how ORNL's supercomputers are used to expand knowledge. The module *Operation: Tectonic Fury* provides a way for middle school students to use basic science skills to understand how geologic and human forces shape the earth. Because of ORNL's contributions, farming practices and planting of energy crops are included as influences. The true reward, of course, is knowing that this excellent teaching module will help science come alive in middle schools across the country for many years to come.