Connecticut Science & Engineering Fair Media Advisory
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2019 Connecticut Science & Engineering Fair Announces Winners at 71st Awards Ceremony

Top Prizes Given to Students from Bethany, Bozrah, Danbury, Greenwich, New Haven, Redding, Stamford, Windsor, Wilton, and Westport

HAMDEN, Conn., Mar. 16, 2019 – Approximately 320 prizes and scholarships worth $225,000 were awarded to students from across Connecticut at the 71st Connecticut Science & Engineering Fair's award ceremonies held at Quinnipiac University today. Top student projects (listed below) in The Jackson Laboratory Life Sciences, Lockheed Martin Physical Sciences, Alexion Biotechnology, Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering, PepsiCo, and IBM Urban School Challenge, and Collins Aerospace Engineering categories are headed to the prestigious 2019 Intel International Science & Engineering Fair (2019 Intel ISEF), to be held May 12-17 in Phoenix, Arizona.

Other CSEF winners will represent Connecticut and compete for thousands more in cash and scholarships at other competitions, including the 2019 GENIUS Olympiad and the 2019 Broadcom MASTERS competition. Additionally, valuable scholarships were given by the host school, Quinnipiac University, as well as the University of Hartford and the University of Connecticut. Click here for all CSEF results, including Special Award winners.

LIFE SCIENCE WINNERS (Sponsor: The Jackson Laboratory)

Grades 9-12 (Top Performers)

- Saira Munshani, Hopkins School, New Haven **(headed to 2019 Intel ISEF)**. Project: *Finding a Therapy for Wolfram Syndrome: Exploring a Calcium Signaling Pathway as a Target for a Disease Without a Cure*
- Annika Morgan, Joel Barlow High School, Redding **(headed to 2019 Intel ISEF)**. Project: *The Effect of Deuterium Oxide (D2O) on the Viability of Coliphage Bacteriophages under Low Temperatures as a Model for Stability in Live Attenuated Viral Vaccines*

Grades 7, 8, and Team

- Grade 8: First Place: Thomas Fanelli, St. Gregory the Great, Danbury. Project: *One Man's Trash is Another Man's Energy*
- Grade 7: First Place: Gabriella Brown, Westside Middle School Academy, Danbury. Project: *Design, Testing, and Optimization of Kombucha SCOBY-based Biofilms*
- Team: First Place: William Carragher, Ryan McIntire, and Joseph Pizzurro, Greenwich Catholic School, Greenwich. Project: *Breathe Better*

PHYSICAL SCIENCE WINNERS (Sponsor: Lockheed Martin)

Grades 9-12 (Top Performers)

- Cynthia Chen, Greenwich High School, Greenwich (headed to 2019 Intel ISEF). Project: *A Green Nanotechnological Approach for Energy Efficiency and Conservation: Tungsten-doped Vanadium Dioxide Thermochromic Smart Windows*
- Anisa Prasad and Sirina Prasad, Staples High School, Westport (headed to 2019 Intel ISEF). Project: *Optimization of High-Efficiency Organic-Inorganic Lead Halide Perovskite Solar Cells via a Novel Polycaprolactone Additive Pathway*

Grades 7, 8, and Team

- Grade 8: First Place: Keerthi Vijay, Middlebrook Middle School, Wilton. Project: *Alternative Household Method to Extinguish Fires*
- Grade 7: First Place: Aryan Pandalai, Scofield Magnet Middle School, Stamford. Project: *Water Quality of the Rippowam River*
- Team: First Place: Anchal Bahel and Nina Carmeli, Amity Middle School, Bethany. Project: *Artificial Pancreas to Regulate Blood Sugar Levels*

URBAN SCHOOL CHALLENGE WINNERS (Sponsors: CT Academy of Science & Engineering, PepsiCo and IBM)

- Grades 9-12: First Place: Srikar Godilla and Cristian Rodriguez, CREC Academy of Aerospace and Engineering High School, Windsor (headed to 2019 Intel ISEF). Project: *Development of In-Situ Fabrication Methods of Martian Construction Material*
- Grades 7-8: First Place: Srishti Ramakrishnan, Westside Middle School Academy, Danbury. Project: *The Study of Effectiveness of Different Separation Methods in Removing Suspended Microplastics from Water*

BIOTECHNOLOGY WINNERS (Sponsor: Alexion)

- Grades 9-12: First Place: Melissa Woo, Greenwich High School, Greenwich **(headed to 2019 Intel ISEF)**. Project: *Rapid, Smartphone-Based Diagnosis of Skin Melanoma through Differences in Tumor Cell Thermal Regulation Combined with Diffuse Spectroscopic Analysis*
- Grade 8: First Place: Keerthi Vijay, Middlebrook Middle School, Wilton. Project: *Alternative Household Method to Extinguish Fires*
- Grade 7: First Place: William Carragher, Ryan McIntire, and Joseph Pizzurro, Greenwich Catholic School, Greenwich. Project: *Breathe Better*

ENGINEERING WINNERS (Sponsor: Collins Aerospace)

- Grades 9-12: First Place: Raina Jain, Greenwich High School, Greenwich **(headed to 2019 Intel ISEF)**. Project: *Control of Varroa Destructor Infestation with a Dual-Function Thymol-Emitting Honey Bee Hive*
- Grades 7-8: First Place: Elle Okoney, Fields Memorial School, Bozrah. Project: Recovering Energy From an A/C Unit Condenser Exhaust Fan

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About the Connecticut Science & Engineering Fair: The Connecticut Science & Engineering Fair is a yearly, statewide science and engineering fair open to all students in grades 7-12 residing, or enrolled, in Connecticut and Fishers Island schools. The primary objective of the fair is to attract young people to careers in mathematics, science, and engineering while developing critical thinking and public speaking skills. Through their participation in the fair, students are encouraged to pursue independent work using proper research methods. The Fair is supported by academic and industrial organizations through the state. The non-profit Connecticut Science & Engineering Fair is a volunteer organization fund that directs funds toward student awards, educational presentations, Fair operations, and workshops. For more information, visit: www.ctsciencefair.org.