

CONNECTICUT
SCIENCE &
ENGINEERING
— FAIR —



2023 Annual Report

Connecticut Science Fair Association



President's Message

Now that the Connecticut Science Fair has celebrated its 75th anniversary, I look forward to our 76th year with sincere gratitude to the many volunteers who have assisted with the planning and operation of our Fair. I am especially grateful to our Fair Director Dr. Frank LaBanca for his countless hours of hard work and dedication. I am also grateful to our presiding Board Chair Sandy Müller for her unwavering support and oversight of our functioning board.

Our Fair is Connecticut's leading venue where middle and high school students can showcase their creativity and scientific aptitude. I continue to be impressed by the complexity and depth of the projects entered into our Fair. In 2023, 347 projects competed in the Fair representing 111 schools in our state. Our volunteer judges selected 163 finalists, from which seven projects were sent to the International Science and Engineering Fair in Dallas, Texas, to compete against projects from other US states and countries. Our Connecticut students' projects received special awards and placed third and fourth as finalists in their respective categories.

Our plan for the 2024 Fair is to continue with virtual preliminary judging to ensure that every student has the experience to interact and interview with expert judges. Finalist judging will be in person at Quinnipiac University which has hosted our Fair since 1998. Our plan for the 2023 Fair was also to have in-person finalist judging, but due to weather concerns, we had to pivot to virtual finalist judging. I greatly appreciate our students, teachers, and volunteers who accommodated the last-minute change. Barring any weather concerns, our volunteers and especially myself are looking forward to our next in-person finalist judging!

Respectfully submitted,



Brad Guilani, *President*
presidentguilani@ctsciencefair.org

2023-2024 Activities

2023

75th Diamond Connecticut Science and Engineering Fair –
Held virtually, March, 2023

International Science and Engineering Fair – *Held in person
in Dallas, Texas*

GENIUS Olympiad – *Held in person in Rochester, NY*

2024

76th Connecticut Science and Engineering Fair – *scheduled
to be conducted in hybrid format, March, 2024*

International Science and Engineering Fair – *scheduled to be
conducted in person in Los Angeles, California.*

GENIUS Olympiad – *scheduled for June 2024 at Rochester
Institute of Technology*

Fair's Mission

The Connecticut Science Fair Association, Inc. is a nonprofit educational organization that serves the youth of Connecticut by providing opportunities for recognition for students whose interests are in the scientific and engineering disciplines. Our annual Connecticut Science and Engineering Fair provides a yearly statewide science and engineering competition open to 7th through 12th grade students residing, or enrolled, in Connecticut schools and a school in Fishers Island, New York.

The Connecticut Science & Engineering Fair (CSEF) is a charter member of the International Science and Engineering Fair, an activity of the Society for Science. Each year we provide our top winners with all-expense paid trips to participate in the International Science and Engineering Fair and GENIUS Olympiad.

Our volunteers work to interest youth in careers in science and engineering through our yearly Fair, teacher and student workshops, presentations, and website www.ctsciencefair.org

We are all-volunteer with all funds directed to student awards, Fair operation, student/teacher workshops, educational presentations, and participation by CSEF winners in international student science and engineering competitions.

Financials[‡]

2023 Fiscal Year October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2023

Income:

Grant & Award Contributions	\$ 92,250
Donations for special awards	\$ 13,939
Project registration	\$ 22,590
Total income	\$128,590

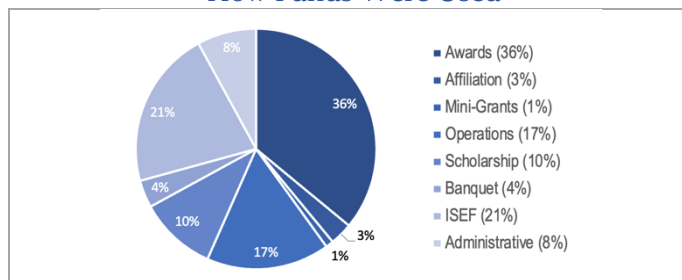
Expenses:

Student Awards- Trophies, plaques, T-shirts	\$ 51,797 [§]
Affiliation fee with Society for Science and the Public and other expenses for virtual International Science & Engineering Fair Mini-Grants	\$ 4,377
State Fair Operating Expenses	\$ 1,500
1-time College Scholarships in memory of Krista Johnson, Alexion Scientist and CSEF Biotechnology Judging Co-chair	\$ 23,823
75 th Diamond Fair Celebration	\$ 15,000
International Science and Engineering Fair Administrative	\$ 5,320
	\$ 30,667
	\$ 11,460
Total expenses	\$143,944

[§] Includes only awards administered by CSEF. Special awards which are conveyed directly to the students by the sponsoring organizations have an estimated value of \$511,000 including college scholarships.

[‡] Financials are subject to final review and audit.

How Funds Were Used



2023 Accomplishments

- **438** students, **244** female and **184** male, from **99** schools and regional fairs presented a total of **347** projects at our State Fair held virtually March 6-18.
- The Urban School Challenge program was expanded to include public schools from the 33 towns in the Alliance District Program as defined by the state of Connecticut. Top placing students go on to compete at the International Science & Engineering Fair and GENIUS Olympiad. Three schools were awarded \$500 minigrants to fund research program supplies and travel to compete at Connecticut Science & Engineering Fair (CSEF).
- New sponsorship from M&T Bank and the Infosys Foundation expanded awards opportunities for students.
- An estimated 6,500 students compete in school and regional science fairs to qualify for the Connecticut Science & Engineering Fair.
- **Over 400** awards and scholarships having a total value of approximately \$600,000 were presented at the 2023 State Fair. **91** award sponsors including professional societies, businesses, colleges, individual contributors, Fair alumni, and Fair funding made this outstanding program possible.
- We served as qualifying competition for International Science & Engineering Fair, GENIUS Olympiad, the Broadcom MASTERS middle school competition, and the National Stockholm Junior Water Prize.
- Seven student projects were selected to attend the International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) in Dallas, Texas.
- Six CSEF students were selected to compete at GENIUS Olympiad.
- Approximately three hundred scientists, engineers, and educators served as judges.
- Fourteen fair categories were conducted this year, providing recognition opportunities for multiple technical disciplines and urban settings.
- A 75th Diamond Fair reception was held in April to celebrate the Fair's longevity and honor the volunteers.



Sponsors and Supporters

Major Category Awards

Alexion
Boehringer Ingelheim Cares Foundation
PepsiCo
The Jackson Laboratory
Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering

Special Category Awards

EnergizeCT
Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetland
Commissions
Infosys Foundation
M&T Bank
Petit Family Foundation
Pfizer
Stanley Black and Decker

Grant Sponsors

Aureus Analytics
IBM
Society for Science

Alumni/Friends

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Bob Erickson
Ernest and Fay Gagnon
Bob and Cammie Harris
Leask Family, ISEF '10
Lessoff Family
David Liscinsky
Sandra & Wynn Müller
Otero Family - ISEF '96, '97, '98
Schoepfer Family
Wisner Family – ISEF '58, '59
Bruce Zepke

Business Friends

Adobe
Barker Specialty Company
Demos "R" Us
Diastole Wealth Management
Hedges & Hedges
Lichtenstein Financial
Society for Science
Spencer Sloane Photography
TechSoup
TurnKey Compliance Solutions

College Scholarships

Quinnipiac University
University of Hartford
University of Connecticut
University of New Haven

2023 Recognition Awards

6 Years Participation

David Boudreau, Fairfield College Preparatory School

4 Years Participation

Shirya Jonnalagadda, Brookfield High School

Jason Li, Guilford High School

Sheehan Munim, Amity Regional High School

Tasneem Zoghol, Madina Academy

10 Year Service Award

Dr. Shumin Bian

Matthew Buchta

Dr. Charles Dimmick

Dr. Mathieu Freeman, Greens Farms Academy

Robert Willsey, Travelers

15 Year Service Award

Iliana Almeida, Advanced Educational Resources, LLC

20 Year Service Award

Katherine Muller, Alumni

Dr. Frank LaBanca, Area Cooperative Educational Services

25 Year Service Award

Dr. Richard Katz, Dept. of Navy (NUWC-NPT)

30 Year Service Award

Robert V Erickson, Demos R Us

Dr. David Hobbs, AIAA

Quinnipiac University



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The Connecticut Science & Engineering Fair is committed to the attainment of equal opportunity within all its programs. Connecticut Science & Engineering Fair accepts participants and volunteers based upon their individual qualifications. Connecticut Science & Engineering Fair prohibits discrimination based on such characteristics as age, color, disability, ethnicity, gender, marital status, national origin, race, religion, and sexual orientation.

Connecticut Science Fair Association, Inc.

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an all-volunteer Connecticut nonprofit organization

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