

Connecticut Science & Engineering Fair

Quinnipiac University March 3 - 15, 2025 Special Award Winners

All special award winners are required to attend the awards ceremony on Saturday. Be sure to acknowledge by going to the CHECK-IN page.

These judging results are unaudited by the

fair's Database Committee. The CSEF reserves the right to correct the listings.

[SchTown] [School] [Teacher]
[Proj#] [FCat] [Project Title]

https://ctsciencefair.org/finalists-special-awards-check-in

Avon Avon High School Andrea Galuska 6088 PS Harnessing the Power of the Wind: A Comparative Analysis on HAWT, Savonius and Darrieus Wind Turbines and Their Efficiency Student(s) Nate Lee Grade 10 Town Avon **Bethel** Bethel High School Raymond Turek PS | Evaluating the Effectiveness of Natural Antioxidants in Slowing Food Oxidation and Extending Shelf Life Student(s) Katie Bui Grade 12 Town Bethel Bethel Bethel High School Turek Ray 6035 PS Advancing Personalized Seizure Control: A Cutting-Edge Real-Time EEG Feedback System for Precision Adaptive Neurostimulation Student(s) Srirama Desiraju Grade 11 Town Bethel Fields Memorial School Joshua Fish Bozrah PT A Study of the Impact of Slope, Materials, and Lubrication on Friction. 4016 Student(s) Elise Kobelski Grade 8 Town Bozrah **Hannah East** Grade 8 Town Bozrah Serena BunkerCai Grade 8 Town Bozrah Bozrah Fields Memorial School Joshua Fish PT What impact will different sphere and track variables have on the performance of a model roller coaster? 4011 Student(s) Benjamin Savoie Grade 8 Town Gilman Isaiah Negron-Rygielski Town Bozrah Grade 8 Bozrah Fields Memorial School Joshua fish LT A study of the efficiency of ice melt substances and their environmental impact on roadside vegetation 1025 Student(s) Analise Williams Grade 7 Town bozrah Ella Sikorski Grade 7 Town Bozrah **Bridgeport** Bridgeport Regional Aquaculture Center Kirk Shadle 6027 PS The Novel Application of Arbuscular Mycorrhizae to Improve the Vitality of Glycine max in Martian Regolith Town Trumbull Student(s) Owen Dueck Grade 12 **Bridgeport** Fairchild Wheeler-Biotech Tara Liskov 6072 PS Energy Production from a Homemade Hydrogen Cell Student(s) Wyatt Speight Town Fairfield Grade 12 **Bridgeport** Fairchild Wheeler-Infotech Ricki Chiem 6518 PST The Benefits of Designing Base Isolators for Earthquake Proof Structures Student(s) Ayden Gamble Grade 10 Town Bridgeport **Eddie Bermudez** Grade 11 Town Bridgeport

Special Award Winners

[SchTown] [School] [Teacher] [Proj#] [FCat] [Project Title] Bridgeport John Winthrop School Srilakshmi Kongani 4005 PT Don't Quake, Choose the Right Shape! Student(s) Kyleen Negron Grade 8 Town Bridgeport Leah Brioso Grade 8 Town Bridgeport **Bridgeport** Theodore Roosevelt School Sherita Paul P8 The Strength of Bridges Student(s) Edmond Deshotel Grade 8 Town Bridgeport Cheshire Cheshire Academy Breanna Craft 6013 PS A Tracking System. Student(s) Deanna Dixon Town Cheshire Grade 11 Cheshire Cheshire High School Julie Barker The Design and Development of a Smart and Effective Multi-Device Airline Seatbelt Alert System for Preventing 6058 Turbulence-Related Injuries Using iOT Technology Student(s) Suchita Srinivasan Grade 11 Town Cheshire **Danbury** Saint Gregory the Great School Christine Fahey 2012 L7 | 1 Pollutant: 4 Filtering Methods Student(s) Dheer Bhavsar Grade 7 Town Danbury Saint Gregory the Great School **Danbury** Christine Fahey 1003 LT Fertilizer vs Compost Student(s) Lucia Molisani Grade 7 Town Redding Gemma Molisani Grade 7 Town Redding **Danbury** Saint Gregory the Great School Christine Fahey L7 Would You Like Plastic With That? Student(s) Rahil Shah Grade 7 Town Danbury **Danbury** Saint Joseph School Kathleen Spina 2520 L8 Crossed Up! Student(s) Brayden Crabbe Grade 8 Town Danbury Westside Middle School Academy Nancy Barlow Danbury Increasing The Flight Distance of The Football by Changing its Characteristics 4002 Student(s) Brennen Denema Grade 8 Town Danbury Sean Kennedy Grade 8 Town Danbury **Mathias Sanchez** Grade 8 Town Danbury **Danbury** Westside Middle School Academy Nancy Barlow LT Does heating or cooling a fruit/vegetable lower the amount of Brix? 1005 Student(s) Mohammad Rehan Grade 7 Town Danbury Gowtham Vallinayagam Grade 7 Town Danbury **Danbury** Westside Middle School Academy Nancy Barlow PT How does the Type and Brand of a Battery Affect how Much Voltage it Loses Over Time? Student(s) Logan Schneider Grade 7 Town Danbury **Daniel Sposato** Grade 7 Town Danbury

Special Award Winners

[SchTown] [School] [Teacher] [Proj#] [FCat] [Project Title] Darien Darien High School David Lewis PS The Detection of Circumstellar Debris Disks in Stellar Environments of 3 Habitable Small or Low-Mass Planet Candidates Student(s) Julian Du Grade 10 Town Darien Darien High School David Lewis Darien LS | Association Between Food Insecurity and Mortality Outcomes Among Cancer Survivors in the United States Student(s) Lily Keehlwetter Grade 12 Town Darien Darien Darien High School Guy Pratt LS Correlation Between Depth and Transplantation Success Among 3 Coral Species Student(s) Emma Meyers Grade 12 Town Darien Darien High School Christine Leventhal PS Confirming TESS exoplanet candidates and searching for multi-planetary systems using transit photometry and timing variations Student(s) Allison Valji Grade 12 Town Darien Enfield Chiaravalle Academy Tim Coleman 4003 PT Evaluating the Effectiveness of Rainwater Filtration Student(s) Leah Caswell Grade 8 Town Enfield **Marin Czerwiec** Grade 8 Town Agawam Arianna Plaz Grade 8 Town Suffied Chiaravalle Academy Tim Coleman Enfield PT 1 Step Towards a Greener World Student(s) Megan Quinby Town Windsor Grade 8 **Nathaniel Kelly** Grade 8 Town Longmeadow Fairfield Fairfield Warde Ryan Gleason 3536 LST The affect of invasive English Ivy on native Wild Ginger plants Student(s) Calista Gleason Grade 10 Town Fairfield **Emma Speicher** Grade 10 Town Fairfield Farmington Miss Porter's School Christine Scanlon 6103 PS Development of a Gravitational Lensing Model: The Effect of Lens Position and Orientation on Image Distortion Student(s) Claire Lee Town FARMINGTON Grade 10 Greenwich Brunswick School Dana Montanez Increasing Chlorophyll Production in Prochlorococcus via synchronous culturing with Trichodesmium: An effort to increase Photosynthetic Rate. Student(s) Shep McGovern Grade 10 Town Greenwich Greenwich Brunswick School Dana Montanez Sleep to Succes: How Sleep Impacts Student Acedemic Performance Student(s) Harry Saunders Grade 10 Town greenwich

Greenwich Central Middle School Andrew Bramante

3/13/2025

Special Award Winners

[SchTown] [School] [Teacher] [Proj#] [FCat] [Project Title] **Greenwich** Central Middle School Andrew Bramante Highlighting the Prevalence of Microplastics at Tod's Point Through Waste Water and Ocean Currents Using Scanning Electron Microscopy Analysis Student(s) Carter Henske Grade 8 Town Greenwich Greenwich Eastern Middle School Andrew Bramante L8 Identification of the Optimal Wastewater Algae for Production of Degradable Bioplastics from PHB Student(s) Leo Foell Grade 8 Town Greenwich Greenwich Greenwich Catholic School Timothy Koppe MedAssist (Smart medicine storage) Student(s) Artem Perekhodko Grade 7 Town stamford **Jose Miguel Bowles** Grade 7 Town Greenwich Ben Ballester Grade 7 Town Stamford Greenwich Greenwich Country Day School Nathan Haag 6108 PS Effectiveness of a Smart Traffic Light Utilizing IoT Technologies for High School Campuses Student(s) Christian Suy Pineda Grade 11 Town Stamford Greenwich Greenwich Country Day School Nathan Haag Optimizing Vertical Take-Off and Landing (VTOL) Aircraft Efficiency Through Propeller Design: Making Air Flight More Accessible, Affordable, and Sustainable Student(s) Cooper Taylor Town Greenwich Grade 11 **Greenwich** Greenwich High School Andrew Bramante 3017 LS Neural Network Interpretation of EEG Scans for Accurate Diagnosis of Asymptomatic Concussions Student(s) Isha Bharti Grade 9 Town Riverside Greenwich Greenwich High School Andrew Bramante Targeted Delivery of a Melittin Anti-inflammatory Peptide via a Eudragit-Coated Sporopollenin Exine Capsule, for Effective Treatment of Crohn's Disease Student(s) Hannah Dcruz Grade 10 Town Greenwich Greenwich Greenwich High School Andrew Bramante 6020 PS Facilitated Ethylene Absorption and Freshness Preservation via All-Natural Sodium Chloride and Student(s) Nishant Jain Town Riverside Grade 10 **Greenwich** Greenwich High School Andrew Bramante PS Consideration of Location-specific Weather and Topographic Datasets to Model Efficient Deployment of Forest Fire 6009 Flame Retardants Student(s) Iri Pullepu Town Old Greenwich Grade 9 Greenwich High School Andrew Bramante 3112 LS Development of nnU-Net model for pediatric brain tumor segmentation in multi-modality MRI images Town Riverside Student(s) Sophie Yu Grade 10 Greenwich Sacred Heart Greenwich Mary Musolino 2509 L8 Testing the Effectiveness of Green and Black Tea as a Plant Nutrient Student(s) Paige Creegan Grade 8 Town Briarcliff Manor

Special Award Winners

[SchTown] [School] [Teacher] [Proj#] [FCat] [Project Title] **Greenwich** Sacred Heart Greenwich Mary Musolino 2514 L8 Bamboo Bio-Plastic Student(s) Olivia Hastings Grade 8 Town Greenwich Greenwich Sacred Heart Greenwich Mary Musolino 1013 LT The Effect of Silver Nanoparticles and Microplastics on the Reproductive Rate and Lifespan of Artemia Salina Student(s) Sophia lyer Grade 8 Town Darien Sydney Bellissimo Grade 8 Town Riverside Greenwich Sacred Heart Greenwich Mary Musolino Musolino 4020 PT Using Clay Flocculation to Reduce Harmful Algae Blooms in a Body of Water Student(s) Vivienne Vanderwilt Town Greenwich Grade 8 **Nora Mulcahy** Town RYE Grade 8 **Ariel Almonacy** Town Greenwhich Grade 8 **Greenwich** Western Middle School Andrew Bramante 5502 P8 Integration of Photoluminescent Manganese-doped ZnS Nanocrystals Student(s) Alexandra Rothstein Grade 8 Town Greenwich Hamden Hamden Hall Country Day School Lucia Jilaveanu LS Caveolin-1 as a Biomarker and Potential Mediator of Melanoma Brain Metastasis Town Cheshire Student(s) Andrei Balas Grade 11 Hamden Hamden Hall Country Day School Paulomi Aldo 5002 P7 Water Pressure Rocket Student(s) Russell Clune Grade 7 Town Guilford Hamden Hamden Hall Country Day School Paulomi Aldo 5007 How does dimple patterns affect a golf balls flight? Town North Haven Student(s) David Esposito Grade 7 Hamden Hamden Hall Country Day School Robert Link LS Development and experimentation of an AI algorithm alongside a Near-Infrared LED device to assist in venipuncture. 3134 Student(s) Neev Makin Grade 11 Town Hamden Hamden Hall Country Day School Jacob Marchesi Hamden 6506 PST Energy Absorption Efficiency of Various Crumple Zone Materials in Pendulum Impact Tests on Model Cars Student(s) Frida Ramirez Moreno Grade 10 Town Meriden **Barbara Ramirez Moreno** Grade 11 Town Meriden Hamden Sacred Heart Academy Paula Napychank LS | Assessing Hearing Risk: Analyzing Noise Levels of Hairdryers and Effective Sound Dampening Techniques 3007 Student(s) Alessandra Picard Town MADISON Grade 9 Kent Kent School ZIHAO DU 6100 PS Three-Support Lower-Limb Exoskeleton Device Integrating Multifunctionality and Feedback Mechanisms Student(s) OliviaLu Fena Grade 11 Town Guangzhou, China

Special Award Winners

[SchTown] [School] [Teacher] [Proj#] [FCat] [Project Title] Manchester Manchester High School Wendy Turek 3073 LS The Effect of Nitrogen Enrichment on the Arousal of Astrangia Poculata from Quiescence Student(s) Bailey Downey Grade 12 Town Manchester Manchester High School Wendy Turek-Hernandez LS Flood Wave Reduction Due to Artificial Reefs Student(s) Anas Hales Grade 12 Town Manchester Manchester Saint James School Brianna Hawkins 5520 P8 Why is wool warmer than most fabric? Student(s) Saanvi Sethi Grade 8 Town Manchester Milford Platt Technical High School Sara Bruno 6516 PST Green Growth Academy Student(s) Danyalis Perez-Cumba Grade 11 Town North Haven Maureen Freire-Trejo Grade 11 Town Bridgeport Karen Plazas Grade 11 Town Bridgeport New Haven Engineering and Science University Magnet School Alyssa Anderson Evaluating LYVE1 Gene Expression in Breast Cancer Using qPCR Analysis and Comparing with Hyperparameter-Tuned Models for LYVE1 Gene Expression in Pancreatic Cancer Student(s) Nivrith Ananth Iver Grade 11 Town West Haven New Haven Engineering and Science University Magnet School Paula Matei-Grysiak 3003 Implementation and Validation of a Novel Machine-Learning-Based Mobile Gyrocardiography System for Arrhythmia Detection Student(s) Ethan Joseph Grade 10 Town West Haven New Haven Engineering and Science University Magnet School Alyssa Anderson Do we link certain titles to certain emotions? Town Milford Student(s) Srikar Mandalika Grade 7 **New Haven** Engineering and Science University Magnet School Alyssa Anderson Investigating the Chemical Properties and Efficiency of Homeade Batteries: A Focus on Voltage, Energy and Chemical Reactions Town New Haven Student(s) Anabelle Silverman Grade 8 New Haven Foote School Elliot Dickson L7 Studying Muscle Memory in Planaria to Understand Neurodegenerative Diseases Student(s) Jessica Park Grade 7 Town New Haven New Haven Sound School Chuck Mulligan 3042 Evaluation of Potential Filtration Enhancements Applied to Municipal Water: Assessing Potential Ways to Reduce Enterococcus Bacteria Levels Discharging From Wastewater Facilities Student(s) Britney Xochipiltecatl Cuahtepitz Grade 12 Town New Haven

Grade 7

Town New Haven

New Haven

Worthington Hooker School Douglas Jones

Student(s) Samuel Kaplan-Fay

2011 L7 Effects of Salinity, Water Temperature, and Distance on Electrolysis

Special Award Winners

[SchTown] [School] [Teacher]
[Proj#] [FCat] [Project Title]

New Haven Worthington Hooker School Douglas Jones 1020 LT Does Plant Orientation Affect Growth Student(s) Sieun Yoo Grade 8 Town New Haven Clarissa Castilio Grade 8 Town New Haven Norwich Technical High School Aleatha Pelloni Norwich LS Proving Microplastics Transfer from Water to Living Organisms Through Vegetation 3012 Student(s) Solibella Davis Grade 11 Town New London Norwich Norwich Technical High School Aleatha Pelloni 3509 LST Impact of Sunscreen Contaminants on Plutes Growth and Development Student(s) Addison Hackett Town Willimantic Grade 11 **Kaitlyn Tortorich** Town Windham Grade 11 Redding CT STEM Lindsay McCarthy Evaluating the Antifungal Potential of Citronella and Cassia Essential Oils at Different Concentrations Against the Mycelia Growth of Bipolaris sorokiniana Student(s) Elena Huber Grade 10 Town Woodbridge Ridgefield Ridgefield High School Patrick Hughes PS Synthetic Turf Fields Effect on Water Features Student(s) Elayna Wright Grade 12 Town Ridgefield Ridgefield High School Patrick Hughes Ridgefield LS The Effects of Moisture Levels on Polystyrene Consumption in Tenebrio Molitor Student(s) Elijah Yurkovsky Town Ridgefield Grade 12 **South Windsor** South Windsor High School Suma Basavarappa 3144 SiExo: Modular Bayesian-Optimized Dual-Ligand TfR/RVG Exosomes for siRNA Delivery and BBB Transcytosis in CNS Neurotherapeutics Student(s) Samarth Basanth Town South Windsor Grade 11 **South Windsor** South Windsor High School Danel Eitel Biodegradable Packaging Materials: Using Polysaccharides found in Alginate Extract from Marine Macroalgae to mimic the structure and function of Conventional polymers Town South Windsor Student(s) Tanvi Mishra Grade 10 **South Windsor** South Windsor High School Danel Eitel 6514 PST Waste to Watts Student(s) Rishi Murali Grade 10 Town South Windsor Town South Windsor **Gavin Lippi** Grade 10 Prahaladhan Rajarajan Grade 10 Town south windsor **South Windsor** South Windsor High School Danel Eitel 6501 PST Watt Box Student(s) Mason Smith Grade 10 Town South Windsor **Prasun Modi** Grade 10 Town South Windsor

Special Award Winners

[SchTown] [Proj#] [FCat]	[School] [Project Title]	[Teacher]						
South Windsor	South Windsor H	ligh School Danel Ei	itel					
6047 PS			ecture & mathematical m nk-1 magnitude approxir		cing De	nse Layer computational complexity		
	Student(s) Ka	arthik Srikumar		Grade 10	Town	South Windsor		
Southington S	outhington High S	School Ismail Agirma	n					
3060 LS	Mitigation of Cyc	lohexane Concentration	ons in Drinking Water us	sing photosyn	thetic m	nolecule Chlorophyll		
	Student(s) Es	sra Agirman		Grade 9	Town	Southington		
Stamford King	School Victoria	Schulman						
6104 PS								
	Student(s) Di	llon Maltese		Grade 11	Town	Greenwich		
Stamford King	School Victoria	Schulman						
6031 PS An Effective Water Treatment Method: Adsorption of Ni(II) Ions in Water Using DNA-Wrapped Carbon Nanotubes								
	Student(s) B	runo Reinhoefer Ribe	eiro	Grade 11	Town	Riverside		
Stamford King	School Victoria	Schulman						
3069 LS	Understanding thand Gracilaria m		ditives on the growth an	d performand	e of the	seaweeds Saccharina latissima		
	Student(s) Lu	ıcia Vivanco		Grade 11	Town	Stamford		
Stamford Laure	el Springs School	Vera Ulanovskaya						
6046 PS	Research on Au		ectrometer (RAD-Spec)	: A Machine L	earning	-Based Application for Improving		
	Student(s) Vi	ctoria Makarov		Grade 11	Town	Stamford		
Stratford Saint	Mark School Al	exander Kennedy						
5004 P7	Metal Vs. Alloy,	Which is Stronger?						
	Student(s) Ja	xon Keeler		Grade 7	Town	Stratford		
Trumbull Chris	tian Heritage Sch	ool Daniel Cote						
6014 PS	Converting Plast	ic Water Bottle to 3D I	Printing Filament					
	Student(s) Zu	ıle Sun		Grade 11	Town	Trumbull		
Wallingford Ch	oate Rosemary H	lall Ben Small						
3155 LS	Development of Sensor Fusion for	an Al-Enabled Pressu or Early Detection of N	re-Sensing Mat System eurodegenerative Disor	and Validatio ders	n of No	vel Gait Biomarkers Through Multi-		
	Student(s) RI	hea Doshi		Grade 10	Town	Farmington		
Wallingford Ch	oate Rosemary H	Iall Shiyao Gu						
6086 PS	A Novel Fishbon	e-Shaped Smart Glov	e for Stroke Patients					
	Student(s) Ji	ngyan Liu		Grade 9	Town	Shanghai		
Wallingford Ch	oate Rosemary H	lall ning tang						
6012 PS	Development of	Innovative Low-Freque	ency Sound Absorption	Structures Us	sing Adv	anced Metamaterials		
	Student(s) No	eil Wang		Grade 10	Town	long island city		
Wallingford Ch	oate Rosemary H	Iall Zhiyuan Hu						
3075 LS		on of Early Cancer Dia n of Circulating Tumor		d Semi-Super	vised N	eural Networking for the Detection		
	Student(s) Yu			Grade 11	Town	Wallingford		

[Teacher]

[School]

[SchTown]

Special Award Winners

[Proj#] [FCat] [Project Title] Waterbury ACES at Chase Rachel Murray 5015 P7 Analyzing DNA Student(s) Doreen Cajuste Grade 7 Town Wolcott Waterbury ACES at Chase Rachel Murray P7 What Materials Cause the Most Static Electricity to Light an Incandescent Light Bulb? Student(s) LaRaina Johnson Town Waterbury Grade 7 Watertown Taft School Amanda Benedict 3105 LS Biomimetic Filtration: Applying the Voronoi Pattern of Sea Urchin Shells to Remove Lead from Student(s) Dongeun Rhee Grade 9 Town Watertown Watertown Taft School Amanda Benedict 6008 PS Adaptive Multi-Link Portable Knee Exoskeleton Student(s) Dylan Shi Grade 10 Town Watertown Watertown Taft School Amanda Benedict 6067 PS Bionic Shoulder Joint Based on Cable Powered Technology Student(s) Yan Chak So Grade 10 Town Watertown Westport Greens Farms Academy Mathieu Freeman P8 | Investigating Modified Dental X-Rays in Novel Digital Computed Radiography Imaging for Emergency Medical Services Student(s) Dylan Karpf Town Westport Grade 8 Greens Farms Academy Mathieu Freeman 5506 P8 How Different Wing Shapes Affect The Way That Model Planes Fly Student(s) Ben Kiev Grade 8 Town Westport Westport Greens Farms Academy Mathieu Freeman LS | Equus Caballus and Human Heart Rate Variability Synchronization as a Model for Potential Atrial Fibrillation Treatment Student(s) Adeline Thompson Grade 12 Town Easton Westport Staples High School Amy Parent 3048 LS The Effects of Vitamin D Supplementation on Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD) in C. Elegans Town Westport Student(s) Nolan Franics Grade 11 Staples High School Amy Parent Westport 3096 The Effect of the Nutritional Supplement, Curcumin, on Vulval induction to evaluate its role in Epidermal Growth Factor **Driven Cancers** Student(s) Alexis Krenzer Grade 12 Town Westport Wilton Middlebrook School Janica Bagosy P8 The Effect of Screen Time on Your Body's Circadian Rhythms Student(s) Kanira Baskar Grade 8 Town WILTON Wilton Middlebrook School Jessica Garcia P8 Smart Eye: Assistive Glasses for the Visually Impaired Student(s) Ishan Chugh Grade 8 Town Wilton

Special Award Winners

[SchTown] [School] [Teacher]
[Proj#] [FCat] [Project Title]

adiation from Common Cell Phone Use
Town WILTON
Town Wilton
nealth conditions among teens
Town WILTON
efficiency, and drag?
Town Hartford
an Al-Driven Model to Predict Supply-
Town Ellington
Town Limigion
Overtor Trail
Oyster Trail
Town Windsor
Town Farmington
ds for Modelling the AUTS2 Variant
Town Windsor
omplex Terrains
Town Medina
prove Freestyle Stroke in Competitive
Town San Mateo
ump System for Diabetes Patients
Town Orange
em to Increase the pH levels of CO ₂ -
Town Woodbridge
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Special Award Winners

[SchTown] [School] [Proj#] [FCat] [Project Title]	[Teacher]								
Woodbridge Amity Regional High School Lindsay McCarthy									
6076 PS Developing a Solar-Powered Water Purification Device Using Hybrid Nanomaterials for Atmospheric Water Harvesting and Filtration									
Student(s) Ni	khil Petrov	Grade 12	Town	Woodbridge					
Woodbridge Amity Regional High School Sarah Reeves									
6037 PS Investigating the Relationship Between the Luminosity and the Extent of the [O III] Narrow-Line Region in Nearby Type 2 Seyfert Galaxies.									
Student(s) To	ony Zhang	Grade 11	Town	Woodbridge					