



# Connecticut Science & Engineering Fair

## Quinnipiac University

March 2 - 14, 2026

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### Final Judging Results

#### Award Legend

Plaque Winners = 1, 2, ...  
Medalists = m  
Winners = w

## Biotechnology Awards

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

### 7th Grade

**Avon** Talcott Mountain Science Center Kaitlyn Roberts

5003 P7 Engineering A Durable Algae-Argonite Alkalinity System To Reduce CO2 Driven Ocean Acidification and Enhance Biological Resilience In Coastal Marine Ecosystems

**Award** 1 **Student(s)** Raji Doshi **Grade 7** **Town** Farmington

- \* Connecticut Science Fair Association Physical Science Awards with CMS Dorothy Minervino --- 1st Place- Physical Sciences 7th Grade Ind. - \$200 & trophy
- \* Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions Environmental Sciences Awards --- 3rd Place MS- \$100, Trophy
- \* Alexion Biotechnology Awards --- 1st Place Biotechnology 7th grade - \$300 & trophy
- \* Society of Women Engineers - Hartford Section --- Scientific Calculator
- \* Southeastern New England Marine Educators (SEMEME) --- \$100 award and membership for student and teacher in SEMEME - 1st Place Junior
- \* Freeman Family Excellence in Chemistry Awards --- \$100 For Excellence in Chemistry or Chemical Engineering - Middle School
- \* Susan and Stanley Lessoff Memorial --- Susan and Stanley Lessoff Memorial Award - \$250 Cash MS

**New Haven** Engineering and Science University Magnet Alyssa Anderson

5008 P7 BiteSight: Development of a Mobile Deep Learning Application for Bug Bite Identification

**Award** 2 **Student(s)** Cayden Joseph **Grade 7** **Town** West Haven

- \* Connecticut Science Fair Association Physical Science Awards with CMS Dorothy Minervino --- 2nd Place- Physical Sciences 7th Grade Ind. - \$150 & trophy
- \* Urban School Challenge Awards with Connecticut Academy of Science & Engineering and OTIS --- 1st Place Middle School - \$200 and Trophy, Medallion
- \* Infosys Foundation Computer Science Awards --- 2nd Place Middle School - \$150, Trophy
- \* Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering Middle School Urban School Challenge Award --- Urban School Challenge 1st MS- \$250 Cash Award, Invite to attend CASE's Annual Meeting
- \* Alexion Biotechnology Awards --- 2nd Place Biotechnology 7th grade - \$200 & trophy
- \* Talcott Mountain Science Center & Academy --- TMSC Founder's Award - Middle School Physical Science - Scholarship to one Summer or Saturday Program at TMSC - Value \$650
- \* The Bob Erickson Memorial Innovation Awards --- \$150 Cash Award-- Clear Execution of Research- 7th Grade

**Wilton** Middlebrook School Nancy Wakeham

4012 PT Green Walls: The Power of Plant-Based Materials for Home Cooling

**Award** 3 **Student(s)** Wesley Marley **Grade 7** **Town** Wilton  
Arrin Suri **Grade 7** **Town** Wilton

- \* Connecticut Science Fair Association Physical Science Awards with CMS Dorothy Minervino --- Finalist - Physical Sciences Jr Team - CSF Medallions
- \* Stanley Black & Decker Applied Technology Awards --- Middle School Finalist - Medallion
- \* Pepsico Engineering Awards --- Finalist - Engineering Middle School - CSF Medallion
- \* Alexion Biotechnology Awards --- 3rd Place Biotechnology 7th grade - \$100 & trophy



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[Proj#] [FCat] [Project Title]

**Danbury** Westside Middle School Academy Nancy Barlow  
 1006 LT The Effect of Acid Rain on Plants Around the World  
**Award** 4 **Student(s)** Brooke Cyphers **Grade 7** **Town** Danbury  
 Margo Anderson **Grade 7** **Town** Danbury

- \* Urban School Challenge Awards with Connecticut Academy of Science & Engineering and OTIS --- Middle School Finalist - Medallion
- \* EnergizeCT Future Sustainability Awards --- Middle School Finalist - Medallion
- \* Alexion Biotechnology Awards --- 4th Place Biotechnology 7th grade - trophy

**Avon** Talcott Mountain Science Center Brigitte Zacharczenko  
 2005 L7 Sensory Triggers of Defensive Behavior in Manduca seat  
**Award** 5 **Student(s)** Sheldon Hsiao **Grade 7** **Town** Farmington

- \* Connecticut Science Fair Association Life Science Awards with The Jackson Laboratory --- 2nd Place- Life Sciences 7th grade- \$200 & trophy
- \* Alexion Biotechnology Awards --- 5th Place Biotechnology 7th grade - trophy

**Avon** Talcott Mountain Science Center Brigitte Zacharczenko  
 2001 L7 Operation Brine Shrimp: Optimizing Life Conditions  
**Award** m **Student(s)** Nikhil Krishnamurthy **Grade 7** **Town** Avon

- \* Connecticut Science Fair Association Life Science Awards with The Jackson Laboratory --- 3rd Place- Life Sciences 7th grade- \$100 & trophy
- \* Alexion Biotechnology Awards --- Finalist - Biotechnology 7th grade - CSF Medallion

**Danbury** Westside Middle School Academy Nancy Barlow  
 1027 LT Keeping It Cool & Damp  
**Award** m **Student(s)** Madison Rowe **Grade 7** **Town** Danbury  
 Sophia Fernandes **Grade 7** **Town** Danbury  
 Makayla Roxo **Grade 7** **Town** Danbury

- \* Urban School Challenge Awards with Connecticut Academy of Science & Engineering and OTIS --- Middle School Finalist - Medallion
- \* Alexion Biotechnology Awards --- Finalist - Biotechnology 7th grade - CSF Medallion

**Hamden** Hamden Hall Country Day School Paulomi Aldo  
 5014 P7 What is the Lowest Ratio of Earth to Mars Soil in which Plants can be Grown?  
**Award** m **Student(s)** George Hirsch **Grade 7** **Town** North Haven

- \* Connecticut Science Fair Association Physical Science Awards with CMS Dorothy Minervino --- 3rd Place- Physical Sciences 7th Grade Ind. - \$100 & trophy
- \* Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions Environmental Sciences Awards --- MS Finalist - CSF Medallion
- \* Alexion Biotechnology Awards --- Finalist - Biotechnology 7th grade - CSF Medallion



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## Biotechnology Awards

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[Proj#] [FCat] [Project Title]

<b>Waterbury</b>	ACES Chase Academy	Anne Pember	1024	LT	From Food Waste to Water Bottles: Testing Avocado (Persea Americana) Skins as a Sustainable Material
<b>Award</b>	<b>m</b>	<b>Student(s)</b>	<b>Emalyn Lemos</b>	<b>Grade 7</b>	<b>Town</b> Oakville
			<b>Camila Ruiz-Ribeiro</b>	<b>Grade 7</b>	<b>Town</b> Waterbury

\* Alexion Biotechnology Awards --- Finalist - Biotechnology 7h grade - CSF Medallion

<b>Waterbury</b>	ACES Chase Academy	Anne Pember	1017	LT	Galleria Melonella Larvae as Plastic Eaters: Myth or Fact?
<b>Award</b>	<b>m</b>	<b>Student(s)</b>	<b>Mason Mercado</b>	<b>Grade 7</b>	<b>Town</b> Waterbury
			<b>Jason Deo</b>	<b>Grade 7</b>	<b>Town</b> Waterbury

\* Alexion Biotechnology Awards --- Finalist - Biotechnology 7h grade - CSF Medallion

## 8th Grade

<b>Greenwich</b>	Central Middle School	Andrew Bramante	2503	L8	In situ, Natural Degradation of Cyanotoxins in Water by <i>L. acidiphilus</i> , with Concurrent Stimulation of the Aquatic Ecosystem
<b>Award</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Student(s)</b>	<b>Clarissa Maldonado</b>	<b>Grade 8</b>	<b>Town</b> Greenwich

- \* Connecticut Science Fair Association Life Science Awards with The Jackson Laboratory --- 1st Place- Life Sciences 8th grade- \$300 & trophy
- \* Stanley Black & Decker Applied Technology Awards --- Middle School Finalist - Medallion
- \* Connecticut Science Teachers Association's Marty Tafel Student Research Award --- Life Sciences 8th Grade - \$500 and invite to CSTA Award Banquet
- \* Alexion Biotechnology Awards --- 1st Place Biotechnology 8th grade - \$300 & trophy
- \* Ricoh Americas Corporation --- Certificate, \$25 gift card given by CSEF

<b>Greenwich</b>	Eastern Middle School	Andrew Bramante	5506	P8	OASIS: A Solar-Powered Off-Grid System for Harvesting Water from Subsurface Sand Moisture to Support Desert Vegetation Recovery
<b>Award</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Student(s)</b>	<b>Jiahao Luo</b>	<b>Grade 8</b>	<b>Town</b> Greenwich

- \* Connecticut Science Fair Association Physical Science Awards with CMS Dorothy Minervino --- 4th Place- Physical Sciences 8th Grade Ind. - trophy
- \* EnergizeCT Future Sustainability Awards --- Middle School Finalist - Medallion
- \* Pepsico Engineering Awards --- Finalist - Engineering Middle School - CSF Medallion
- \* Alexion Biotechnology Awards --- 2nd Place Biotechnology 8th grade - \$200 & trophy
- \* Lemelson Early Inventor Award --- Certificate & \$100 cash award from Lemelson Foundation
- \* Connecticut Invention Convention "Next Step Inventors" --- Next Step Inventor Trophy & Invitation to compete at the 2026 Invention Convention Summer Finals, August 22



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[Proj#] [FCat] [Project Title]

**Danbury** St. Gregory the Great School Christine Fahey

2511 L8 Novel & Portable Cards For Detection of Common Food Allergens

**Award** 3 **Student(s)** Rahil Shah **Grade** 8 **Town** Danbury

- \* Connecticut Science Fair Association Life Science Awards with The Jackson Laboratory --- 4th Place- Life Sciences 8th grade- trophy
- \* Alexion Biotechnology Awards --- 3rd Place Biotechnology 8th grade - \$100 & trophy
- \* Institute of Food Technologists, Nutmeg Section --- \$150 award + invitation to Awards Night Dinner with guest
- \* National Center for Inquiry Learning --- Daniel & Maggie Award for Imagination - MS \$100

**Greenwich** Central Middle School Andrew Bramante

2508 L8 Investigating the Inclusion of Hair Extracted Keratin Nanostructures for Increased Strength and Flexibility for the Construction of an Artificial Anterior Cruciate Ligament

**Award** 4 **Student(s)** Juliette Prezioso **Grade** 8 **Town** Greenwich

- \* Connecticut Science Fair Association Life Science Awards with The Jackson Laboratory --- 3rd Place- Life Sciences 8th grade- \$100 & trophy
- \* Petit Family Foundation Women in Science & Engineering Awards --- 2nd Place- Middle School- \$150 / trophy
- \* Pfizer Computational Biology and Bioinformatics Awards --- 2nd Place Middle School - \$200, Trophy
- \* Pepsico Engineering Awards --- 2nd Place- Engineering MS- \$150 & trophy
- \* Alexion Biotechnology Awards --- 4th Place Biotechnology 8th grade- trophy

**Greenwich** Central Middle School Andrew Bramante

5502 P8 Repurposing Carbon Combustion Residuals from a Landfill Waste to a Beneficial Soil Additive

**Award** 5 **Student(s)** Morgan Schwartzstein **Grade** 8 **Town** Greenwich

- \* Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions Environmental Sciences Awards --- MS Finalist - CSF Medallion
- \* Pepsico Engineering Awards --- Finalist - Engineering Middle School - CSF Medallion
- \* Alexion Biotechnology Awards --- 5th Place Biotechnology 8th grade- trophy

**East Lyme** East Lyme Middle School Jung Hyun Kim

2516 L8 Predicting Erosive Potential: Comparing Acid Type and Titratable Acidity in Common Beverages

**Award** m **Student(s)** Ayden Kim **Grade** 8 **Town** East Lyme

- \* Alexion Biotechnology Awards --- Finalist - Biotechnology 8th grade - CSF Medallion

**Greenwich** Eastern Middle School Andrew Bramante

2517 L8 A Web-Based Detection Tool for Medical Conditions Effecting the Eye: Integrating Multiple Trained CNNs for Accessible Smartphone Screening

**Award** m **Student(s)** Ares Bandedo-Cambra **Grade** 8 **Town** Old Greenwich

- \* Connecticut Science Fair Association Life Science Awards with The Jackson Laboratory --- Finalist - Life Sciences 8th grade - CSF Medallion
- \* Infosys Foundation Computer Science Awards --- 1st Place Middle School - \$200, Trophy
- \* Alexion Biotechnology Awards --- Finalist - Biotechnology 8th grade - CSF Medallion
- \* Quinnipiac University 4 Year Scholarship in Computing \$30,000 (\$7500/year)



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[Proj#] [FCat] [Project Title]

**Greenwich** Eastern Middle School Andrew Bramante

2502 L8 Can Dietary Anti-oxidant Pre-treatment Control the Hyperphosphorylation of Tau Protein,

**Award** m **Student(s)** Neil Mikkilineni **Grade** 8 **Town** Greenwich

- \* Connecticut Science Fair Association Life Science Awards with The Jackson Laboratory --- 5th Place- Life Sciences 8th grade- trophy
- \* Alexion Biotechnology Awards --- Finalist - Biotechnology 8th grade - CSF Medallion

**Wilton** Middlebrook School Jessica Garcia

5514 P8 Treat Them Proteins! Using Technology to Help Damaged Enzymes

**Award** m **Student(s)** Tanush Nareddy **Grade** 8 **Town** Wilton

- \* Connecticut Science Fair Association Physical Science Awards with CMS Dorothy Minervino --- Finalist - Physical Sciences 8th Grade - CSF Medallion
- \* Pfizer Computational Biology and Bioinformatics Awards --- 1st Place Middle School - \$300, Trophy
- \* Alexion Biotechnology Awards --- Finalist - Biotechnology 8th grade - CSF Medallion

**Wilton** Middlebrook School Janica Bagosy

5525 P8 Smart Plant Care: Using Automation and AI

**Award** m **Student(s)** Pratap Sharma **Grade** 8 **Town** Wilton

- \* Connecticut Science Fair Association Physical Science Awards with CMS Dorothy Minervino --- 3rd Place- Physical Sciences 8th Grade Ind, - \$100 & trophy
- \* Stanley Black & Decker Applied Technology Awards --- 3rd Place Middle School - \$100 and Plaque, Medallion
- \* Infosys Foundation Computer Science Awards --- 3rd Place Middle School- \$100, Trophy
- \* Alexion Biotechnology Awards --- Finalist - Biotechnology 8th grade - CSF Medallion
- \* Office of Naval Research- U.S. Navy / U.S. Marine Corps --- Middle School- Certificate, \$25 gift card given by ONR

## High School

**West Hartford** Kingswood Oxford Ashkan Novin

3178 LS A Multi-Modal AI/ML Platform for Neurodegenerative Risk Prediction: Integrating Epigenetic Signatures through cfDNA Methylation and Functional Mobility Data

**Award** 1 **Student(s)** Rhea Doshi **Grade** 10 **Town** Farmington

- \* Connecticut Science Fair Association Life Science Awards with The Jackson Laboratory --- 1st Place- Life Sciences Senior High- \$500 & Plaque
- \* Pfizer Computational Biology and Bioinformatics Awards --- 2nd Place High School - \$300, Plaque
- \* H. Joseph Gerber Award of Excellence presented by the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering --- Life Sciences Senior 1st HS- \$1,000, Solid Silver Medal of Excellence, Invite to CASE Annual Mtg
- \* Alexion Biotechnology Awards --- 1st Place Biotechnology Senior High - \$500 & plaque

**Greenwich** Greenwich High School Andrew Bramante

3101 LS Design of a Fluorescence-Based, Point-of-Care Diagnostic for Chronic Kidney Disease via Smartphone Detection of Salivary Creatinine-Porphyrin Conjugation

**Award** 2 **Student(s)** Rajsi Choudhary **Grade** 9 **Town** Riverside

- \* Alexion Biotechnology Awards --- 2nd Place Biotechnology Senior High - \$300 & plaque



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**Greenwich** Greenwich High School Andrew Bramante  
 3133 LS Design of a Novel, Dual-Functioning, T-Cell-Engaging and Cytarabine-Based Nanotherapeutic for Acute Myeloid Leukemia Treatment  
**Award** 3 **Student(s)** Lula Wang **Grade** 11 **Town** Old Greenwich

- \* Connecticut Science Fair Association Life Science Awards with The Jackson Laboratory --- 2nd Place- Life Sciences Senior High - \$300 & Plaque
- \* Alexion Biotechnology Awards --- 3rd Place Biotechnology Senior High - \$200 & plaque

**Greenwich** Greenwich High School Andrew Bramante  
 3014 LS CD44-Targeted Nanoparticle Co-Delivery of Simvastatin and Colchicine for Localized Treatment of Atherosclerotic Plaque Inflammation in Cardiovascular Disease  
**Award** 4 **Student(s)** Arnav Bhatia **Grade** 11 **Town** Old Greenwich

- \* Stanley Black & Decker Applied Technology Awards --- 3rd Place High School - \$ 200 and Plaque, Medallion
- \* Alexion Biotechnology Awards --- 4th Place Biotechnology Senior High - plaque

**Greenwich** Greenwich High School Andrew Bramante  
 3007 LS Novel On Chip Screening Device for Ovarian Cancer with Algorithm from SVM-RFE on Serum miRNA Relative Expression Orderings  
**Award** 5 **Student(s)** Sophie Yu **Grade** 11 **Town** Riverside

- \* Connecticut Science Fair Association Life Science Awards with The Jackson Laboratory --- Finalist - Life Science Senior High - CSF Medallion
- \* Alexion Biotechnology Awards --- 5th Place Biotechnology Senior High - plaque
- \* Lunch with a Patent Attorney --- Lunch with a Patent Attorney

**Greenwich** Greenwich High School Andrew Bramante  
 3104 LS Colorimetric Sensory Detection of High Levels of Uric Acid and Endothelin-1 for Early Pulmonary Hypertension  
**Award** m **Student(s)** Amelia Foell **Grade** 11 **Town** Greenwich

- \* Alexion Biotechnology Awards --- Finalist - Biotechnology Senior High - CSF Medallion

**Greenwich** Greenwich High School Andrew Bramante  
 3059 LS Discovery and Validation of Biopolymer Coatings for Nanoparticle-Loaded Silk Fibroin Sutures to Accelerate Tissue Regeneration with a Novel Multimodal Machine Learning Model  
**Award** m **Student(s)** Raghav Ramji **Grade** 10 **Town** Riverside

- \* Connecticut Science Fair Association Life Science Awards with The Jackson Laboratory --- Finalist - Life Science Senior High - CSF Medallion
- \* Alexion Biotechnology Awards --- Finalist - Biotechnology Senior High - CSF Medallion
- \* Connecticut Science Supervisors Association --- \$225 for a high school project



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**Stamford** King School Victoria Schulman

6088 PS Real-Time Instance Segmentation for Curb and Path Detection in Assistive Wearables for Blind and Low-Vision Assistance

Award **m** Student(s) **Olivia Ajayi** Grade 11 Town Stamford

- \* Connecticut Science Fair Association Physical Science Awards with CMS Dorothy Minervino --- Finalist - Physical Sciences Senior High - CSF Medallion
- \* Alexion Biotechnology Awards --- Finalist - Biotechnology Senior High - CSF Medallion
- \* American Society of Safety Professionals, CT Valley Chapter --- \$200 grade 9-12 project

**Watertown** The Taft School Amanda Benedict

3179 LS Investigating the Neuroprotective and Stress-Modulating Effects of Oxytocin on Human Cells under Cortisol-Induced Stress Conditions

Award **m** Student(s) **Esther Lee** Grade 10 Town Watertown

- \* Alexion Biotechnology Awards --- Finalist - Biotechnology Senior High - CSF Medallion
- \* Office of Naval Research- U.S. Navy / U.S. Marine Corps --- High School- Certificate, \$75.00 gift card given by ONR

**Windsor** The Loomis Chaffee School Zhaoyang Huang

3071 LS HTT-HDAC Axis links Major Depressive Disorder and Alzheimer's Disease: A Transformer-Based Multi-Omics Dissection

Award **m** Student(s) **Yuechen Wang** Grade 10 Town Windsor

- \* Alexion Biotechnology Awards --- Finalist - Biotechnology Senior High - CSF Medallion