



Connecticut Science & Engineering Fair

Quinnipiac University

March 2 - 14, 2026

These judging results are unaudited by the fair's Database Committee. The CSEF reserves the right to correct the listings.

Final Judging Results

Computational Biology and Bioinformatics Awards

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

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

Middle School

Wilton Middlebrook School Jessica Garcia

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

Award **1** 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 - \$200, Trophy
- * Alexion Biotechnology Awards --- Finalist - Biotechnology 8th grade - CSF Medallion

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 **2** 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 - \$150, Trophy
- * Pepsico Engineering Awards --- 2nd Place- Engineering MS- \$150, trophy & invitation to compete in Thermo Fisher Scientific Junior Innovator's Challenge
- * Alexion Biotechnology Awards --- 4th Place Biotechnology 8th grade- trophy

North Haven Slate School Jennifer Staple-Clark

2514 L8 A Microbiology Study of Ancient and Modern Flours: Comparing Microbial and Chemical Changes in Leavening Systems

Award **3** Student(s) **Pierson Clark** Grade 8 Town North Haven

- * Connecticut Science Fair Association Life Science Awards with The Jackson Laboratory --- 2nd Place- Life Sciences 8th grade- \$150 & trophy
- * Pfizer Computational Biology and Bioinformatics Awards --- 3rd Place Middle School - \$100, Trophy

Salisbury Indian Mountain School Marissa Teator

1014 LT The Dividing Line of Language: A Computational Model and Cross-Cultural Analysis of How Linguistic Labels Reshape "Chaotic" Perception

Award **m** Student(s) **Kelly Chen** Grade 7 Town Lakeville
Xinyue Zhang Grade 7 Town Lakeville

- * Pfizer Computational Biology and Bioinformatics Awards --- Middle School Finalist - Medallion



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High School

Bethel Bethel High School Ray Turek

3534 LST Wavelet-Based Multiscale Anisotropy-Aware Cell-Cell Communication Inference and Niche Segmentation

Award 1 **Student(s)** Shravya Mankala **Grade** 11 **Town** Bethel
 Scarlett Chen **Grade** 11 **Town** Scarsdale
 Jiayu Su **Grade** 10 **Town** Ridgefield

- * Connecticut Science Fair Association Life Science Awards with The Jackson Laboratory --- 3rd Place - Life Sciences Senior High Team - Plaque
- * Pfizer Computational Biology and Bioinformatics Awards --- 1st Place High School - \$300, Plaque

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 2 **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- \$300 & Plaque
- * Pfizer Computational Biology and Bioinformatics Awards --- 2nd Place High School - \$200, 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 - \$300 & plaque

Greenwich Greenwich High School Andrew Bramante

3094 LS Determining how prevalence of single nucleotide polymorphisms alters HLA molecule's expression, and dictates Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis' best treatments in specific populations

Award 3 **Student(s)** Tessa Addeo **Grade** 10 **Town** Greenwich

- * Connecticut Science Fair Association Life Science Awards with The Jackson Laboratory --- Finalist - Life Science Senior High - CSF Medallion
- * Pfizer Computational Biology and Bioinformatics Awards --- 3rd Place High School - \$100, Plaque
- * Office of Naval Research- U.S. Navy / U.S. Marine Corps --- High School- Certificate, \$75 gift card given by ONR
- * Otero Family Award --- The Otero Family Award; \$250 cash

Avon Avon High School John Salerni

3119 LS Hyper-Activated Interferon Pathways in Asthmatic B Cells Contribute to Exaggerated Immune Response

Award m **Student(s)** Aarika Bhawe **Grade** 11 **Town** Avon

- * Pfizer Computational Biology and Bioinformatics Awards --- Senior High Finalist - Medallion

Bethel Bethel High School Ray Turek

6029 PS A Multiscale Evolutionary Simulation and Machine Learning Framework to Predict Immunotherapy Failure from Tumor-Immune Interaction Dynamics

Award m **Student(s)** Srirama Desiraju **Grade** 12 **Town** Bethel

- * Pfizer Computational Biology and Bioinformatics Awards --- Senior High Finalist - Medallion



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[Proj#] [FCat] [Project Title]

Darien Darien High School Ayman Reffai
 [3169] [LS] Explanatory machine learning modeling of a seven-molecular marker panel for immune checkpoint inhibition response per RECIST v1.1 in metastatic urothelial carcinoma
Award [m] **Student(s)** Matthew Li **Grade** 12 **Town** Darien
 * Pfizer Computational Biology and Bioinformatics Awards --- Senior High Finalist - Medallion

Glastonbury Glastonbury High School Stephen Falcigno
 [3161] [LS] Experimental Validation of Computational Tools for Nanobody Affinity Maturation
Award [m] **Student(s)** Anya Srivastava **Grade** 11 **Town** Glastonbury
 * Pfizer Computational Biology and Bioinformatics Awards --- Senior High Finalist - Medallion

Greenwich Brunswick School Dana Montanez
 [3536] [LST] Biochar as a Bioremediation Method to Control Microplastic Effects on Agricultural Crops
Award [m] **Student(s)** Giancarlo Cuesta **Grade** 10 **Town** Stamford
 Quinn Cunningham **Grade** 10 **Town** Greenwich
 * Pfizer Computational Biology and Bioinformatics Awards --- Senior High Finalist - Medallion
 * Earth Forward Group, LLC --- 2nd Prize for Sustainable, Agriculture and Food Systems \$150 cash

Montville Saint Thomas Moore School Yajamana Ramu
 [3129] [LS] Towards Climate-Smart Agriculture: Decoding PP2C Gene Functions for Abiotic Stress Resilience in Maize
Award [m] **Student(s)** Ami Rastogi **Grade** 11 **Town** Monroe Township
 * Petit Family Foundation Women in Science & Engineering Awards --- High School Finalist - Medallion
 * Pfizer Computational Biology and Bioinformatics Awards --- Senior High Finalist - Medallion
 * Stanley Black & Decker Applied Technology Awards --- Senior High Finalist - Medallion
 * Marty Putnam Foundation Awards --- Top Project in Cell or Gene Therapy or Immunology, 2nd Place \$200

New Haven Hopkins School Viktoriia Kolesnyk
 [3097] [LS] Understanding Uterus Wound Healing and Tissue Remodeling: The Role of Fibroblast Growth Factor 2
Award [m] **Student(s)** Derin Bahtiyar **Grade** 11 **Town** New Haven
 * Pfizer Computational Biology and Bioinformatics Awards --- Senior High Finalist - Medallion

Stamford King School Victoria Schulman
 [3146] [LS] Effects of Dietary Sugars on Bone Mass and Mechanical Strength
Award [m] **Student(s)** Max Marti **Grade** 11 **Town** New Canaan
 * Pfizer Computational Biology and Bioinformatics Awards --- Senior High Finalist - Medallion



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Watertown The Taft School Amanda Benedict
 3521 LST Finding a New Class of Inhibitors for IL-1 β (interleukin-1 beta) Towards the Cure of Age Related Macular Degeneration
 Award m Student(s) Jonathan So Grade 11 Town Watertown
 Jamie Ho Grade 11 Town Lawrence Township

* Connecticut Science Fair Association Life Science Awards with The Jackson Laboratory --- 2nd Place- Life Sciences Senior High Team- \$200 (split) & Plaque
 * Pfizer Computational Biology and Bioinformatics Awards --- Senior High Finalist - Medallion

West Haven Notre Dame High School Omar Espinosa
 3107 LS Decoding Adhesion Proteins: Computational Insights for Smarter Brain-on-a-Chip Interfaces
 Award m Student(s) Siddarth Kothandam Grade 11 Town Hamden

* Pfizer Computational Biology and Bioinformatics Awards --- Senior High Finalist - Medallion

Westport Staples High School Amy Parent
 3013 LS The Mechanisms Underlying the Mitigating Effects of Vitamin D Supplementation on Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy in C. elegans
 Award m Student(s) Nolan Francis Grade 12 Town Westport

* Pfizer Computational Biology and Bioinformatics Awards --- Senior High Finalist - Medallion

Woodbridge Amity Regional High School Lindsay McCarthy
 3127 LS Investigating the Impact of BRCA1/2 Co-Expression Gene Silencing on Chemotherapy Efficacy in Ovarian Cancer
 Award m Student(s) Charlotte Stannard Grade 12 Town Bethany

* Connecticut Science Fair Association Life Science Awards with The Jackson Laboratory --- Finalist - Life Science Senior High - CSF Medallion
 * Pfizer Computational Biology and Bioinformatics Awards --- Senior High Finalist - Medallion