



Connecticut Science & Engineering Fair

Quinnipiac University

March 2 - 14, 2026

Special Award Winners

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

Awards Legend

Honors = 1st, 2nd, or 3rd honors
(Projects with 1st honors are Finalists in Life or Physical Science)

[SchTown]	[School]	[Teacher]	[Proj#]	[FCat]	[Honors]	[Project Title]	Sponsor(s)	Award(s)
Avon	Talcott Mountain Science Center	Kaitlyn Roberts	5003	P7	1	Engineering A Durable Algae-Argonite Alkalinity System To Reduce CO2 Driven Ocean Acidification and Enhance Biological Resilience In Coastal Marine Ecosystems		
			Student(s)		Raji Doshi	Grade 7	Town	Farmington
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Society of Women Engineers - Hartford Section --- Scientific Calculator * Southeastern New England Marine Educators (SEMEME) --- \$100 award and membership for student and teacher in SENEME - 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 								
Bethel	Bethel High School	Raymond Turek	6046	PS	3	The Effect of Hydroxyapatite Concentration Within Dentistry Composite Resin on the Wear, Acidic Erosion, and Discoloration on a Synthetic Tooth.		
			Student(s)		Amanda Almeida	Grade 12	Town	Bethel
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * University of Connecticut - Early College Experience --- UCONN Early College Experience Program: Frontiers in Science - \$100 Cash 								
Bethel	Bethel High School	Ray Turek	6003	PS	2	Fleet for Localized Atmospheric Research and Environmental Surveillance (FLARES): Autonomous drones and machine learning working for a cleaner environment.		
			Student(s)		Toshan Bhattacharya	Grade 11	Town	Bethel
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Air and Waste Management Association, Connecticut Chapter --- \$100 Senior, Environmental Research, air pollution related 								
Bozrah	Fields Memorial School	Joshua Fish	1003	LT	1	The Impact of Ice Melting Substances On Unicellular Organisms In Pond Water		
			Student(s)		Analise Williams	Grade 8	Town	Bozrah
					Ella Sikorski	Grade 8	Town	Bozrah
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration --- Certificate and \$25 gift card given by CSEF * Alumni Botany Awards --- Alumni Middle School Botany Award- \$100 Cash 								
Bridgeport	Black Rock School	Elizabeth Moran	5528	P8	3	Solar vs Battery Powered Car Performance		
			Student(s)		Robert Daley	Grade 8	Town	Bridgeport
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * IEEE, Connecticut Section --- \$100 Honorable Mention * Society of Women Engineers - Hartford Section --- Scientific Calculator * The Bob Erickson Memorial Innovation Awards --- \$200 Cash Award- Clear Execution of Research- 8th Grade 								

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[SchTown]	[School]	[Teacher]	[Proj#]	[FCat]	[Honors]	[Project Title]	Sponsor(s)	Award(s)
Bridgeport	Bridgeport Regional Aquaculture Center	Holly Turner	3199	LS	3	Impact of increasing water temperatures on strobilation rates in Aurelia aurita.		
		Student(s) Calyn Fletcher					Grade 10	Town fairfield
* Aquarion Water Company --- 1st, \$300.00 Cash - Grade 9-12 For Excellence in Water Quality or Environmental Management								
Bridgeport	Bridgeport Regional Aquaculture Center	Holly Turner	3510	LST	2	How Light Color Influences Agar Production in Gracilaria tikvahiae.		
		Student(s) Cherelle Ricketts					Grade 10	Town Bridgeport
		Joshua Ball					Grade 11	Town Bridgeport
* Society for In Vitro Biology --- Certificate and \$25 gift card given by CSEF								
Bridgeport	Fairchild Wheeler Biotech	Tara Liskov	3515	LST	1	Testing the Efficacy of Non-Toxic Substances on the Destruction of Lanternflies and Egg Masses		
		Student(s) Maxwell Egbuzie					Grade 12	Town Bridgeport
		Sebastian Polanco					Grade 12	Town Bridgeport
* Banning Family Life Science Award --- For excellence in invasive species research, \$100 cash								
Bridgeport	Fairchild Wheeler Biotech	Marilyn Carolina	3036	LS	3	Budgerigars' Behavioral Responses to Different Genres of Music		
		Student(s) Carolyn Fox					Grade 12	Town Bridgeport
* Institute of Food Technologists, Nutmeg Section --- \$75 award + invitation to Awards Night Dinner with guest								
Bridgeport	Fairchild Wheeler Biotech	Lucien Bouffard	3109	LS	1	Equine Cooling Patterns: Physiological Modification		
		Student(s) Carly Grimm					Grade 9	Town Norwalk
* NYUC Pony Club Equine or Animal Science Awards --- \$100 Cash Award or excellence in equine studies								
Bridgeport	Interdistrict Discovery Magnet School	Susan Berez	2002	L7	1	Starch Wars		
		Student(s) Alicia Palacios					Grade 7	Town Bridgeport
* Talcott Mountain Science Center & Academy --- TMSC Founder's Award - Middle School Life Science - Scholarship to one Summer or Saturday Program at TMSC - Value \$650								
* J.A. Augustine and H. Glista Awards --- \$100 for excellence in Life Sciences								
Bridgeport	IT & Software Engineering High School	Ricki Chiem	6510	PST	1	How Effectively Can AI Classify Waste?		
		Student(s) Alan Brewster					Grade 10	Town Milford
		Mikayla Larbi					Grade 10	Town Bridgeport
		Brandon Granados Pastora					Grade 10	Town Bridgeport
* The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven Ecology, Environmental, and Alternative Energy Research Prize --- Award for top environmental protection project from an urban public school (\$455)								

[SchTown]	[School]	[Teacher]	[Proj#]	[FCat]	[Honors]	[Project Title]	Sponsor(s)	Award(s)
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Bridgeport John Winthrop School Srilakshmi Kongani

5510	P8	3	Insulation Investigation					
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Student(s) Lavinya Baence **Grade 8** **Town** Bridgeport

- * Office of Naval Research- U.S. Navy / U.S. Marine Corps --- Middle School- Certificate, \$25 gift card given by ONR
- * IEEE, Connecticut Section --- \$100 Honorable Mention
- * Anonymous Friends of the Fair Family Awards --- 3rd place - \$100 - For Excellence in Engineering Middle School

Bridgeport Multicultural Magnet School Corina Starn

4006	PT	1	SMART CANE					
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Student(s) Erick Aquino **Grade 8** **Town** Bridgeport

Dhavid Caetano **Grade 8** **Town** Bridgeport

- * American Society of Safety Professionals, CT Valley Chapter --- \$150 grade 7-8 project
- * Wisner Chairman's Award --- \$500 cash & plaque
- * Connecticut Invention Convention "Next Step Inventors" --- Next Step Inventor Trophy & Invitation to compete at the 2026 Invention Convention Summer Finals, August 22

Bridgeport Read School Trisha Bartholomew

5509	P8	3	How Does Air Flow Around Different Shape of Cars?					
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Student(s) Aaron Samaroo **Grade 8** **Town** bridgeport

- * U.S. Air Force --- Certificate & USAF Merchandise Package

Bridgeport Warren Harding High School Shelton Neale

3117	LS	1	Plants Grow in Different Soils					
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Student(s) Joseph Colon-Machado **Grade 11** **Town** Bridgeport

- * Society for In Vitro Biology --- Certificate and \$25 gift card given by CSEF
- * Earth Forward Group, LLC --- 1st Prize for Sustainable, Agriculture and Food Systems \$250 cash
- * Susan and Stanley Lessoff Memorial --- Susan and Stanley Lessoff Memorial Award - \$250 Cash HS

Cheshire Cheshire High School Julie Barker

6030	PS	1	Towards Faster Materials Simulation: GPU-Optimized Neural Networks for Interatomic Potentials					
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Student(s) Raine Ma **Grade 11** **Town** Cheshire

- * Anonymous Friends of the Fair Family Awards --- 1st place - \$250 - For Excellence in Engineering High School

Danbury Saint Joseph School Kathleen Spina

2513	L8	2	To Drink or Not To Drink: How clean is your water?					
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Student(s) Christopher Caputo **Grade 8** **Town** danbury

- * Aquarion Water Company --- 3rd. \$100.00 Cash - Grade 7-8 For Excellence in Water Quality or Environmental Management

Danbury St. Gregory the Great School Christine Fahey

2511	L8	1	Novel & Portable Cards For Detection of Common Food Allergens					
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Student(s) Rahil Shah **Grade 8** **Town** Danbury

- * 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

[SchTown]	[School]	[Teacher]	[Proj#]	[FCat]	[Honors]	[Project Title]	Sponsor(s)	Award(s)
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Danbury	Westside Middle School Academy	Nancy Barlow	4001	PT	2	What desalinates water the most efficiently; Solar Distillation, Reverse Osmosis, and Boiling		
	Student(s)	Joseph Brocia					Grade 7	Town Danbury, CT
		Colin Guidotti					Grade 7	Town Danbury
		Brian Saltzman					Grade 7	Town Danbury

* IEEE, Connecticut Section --- \$250 Honors Award -Junior

Danbury	Westside Middle School Academy	Nancy Barlow	4009	PT	1	What is the Affect of Wing Design on the Speed a Model Plane Flies?		
	Student(s)	Shihan Lin					Grade 8	Town Danbury
		Isabella Amenta					Grade 8	Town Danbury
		Ally Kay					Grade 8	Town Danbury

* Robert Francoeur Memorial Awards --- Creative or innovative project in engineering, computer science or mathematics by female students - \$100

Danbury	Westside Middle School Academy	Nancy Barlow	1020	LT	3	How Do Organisms Affect The Rate Off Food Decomposition?		
	Student(s)	Reina Melendez					Grade 8	Town Danbury
		Sophia Cardenas					Grade 8	Town Danbury

* Association for Women Geoscientists --- Certificate & \$25 gift card given by CSEF
 * Earth Forward Group, LLC --- 3rd Prize for Sustainable, Agriculture and Food Systems \$100 cash

Danbury	Westside Middle School Academy	Nancy Barlow	4005	PT	1	Can You Detect Muons and Cosmic Rays Using Household Materials? How do Coronal Mass Ejections affect the number of muons and cosmic rays detected?		
	Student(s)	Sean O'Marra					Grade 8	Town Danbury
		Alius Santiago-Stra					Grade 8	Town Danbury

* Astronomical Society of Greater Hartford - The Charles Hammond for Excellence in Astronomy Award --- Junior Top Project-\$500, subscription to Sky and Telescope, ASGH membership and meeting invitation

Danbury	Westside Middle School Academy	Nancy Barlow	4017	PT	1	The Effect of Phone Case Materials on EMF Radiation from an iPhone Under Various Scenarios.		
	Student(s)	Gowtham Vallinayagam					Grade 8	Town Danbury
		Edward Sola					Grade 8	Town Danbury
		Rafael Barreto					Grade 8	Town Danbury

* American Society of Safety Professionals, CT Valley Chapter --- \$150 grade 7-8 project
 * The Community Foundation for Greater Hew Haven's Milton Fisher Awards for Innovation and Creativity --- For Excellence in Creativity and Innovation by a Middle School student, \$100 cash

Danbury	Westside Middle School Academy	Nancy Barlow	1013	LT	1	How can we use phytoremediation to extract different heavy metals out of soil?		
	Student(s)	Rhea Yadav					Grade 8	Town Danbury
		Aanya Popuri					Grade 8	Town Danbury

* Association for Women Geoscientists --- Certificate & \$25 gift card given by CSEF

[SchTown] [School] [Teacher]
 [Proj#] [FCat] [Honors] [Project Title] Sponsor(s) Award(s)

Darien Darien High School Guy Pratt
 3200 LS 3 The effects of psychiatric service dogs on veterans with PTSD and co-occurring mental health disorders:
 A Meta-Analysis

Student(s) Anastasia Buchesky **Grade 12** **Town** Darien

* American Psychological Association --- Certificate, \$25 gift card given by CSEF

Darien Darien High School David Lewis
 6085 PS 2 Functionalizing DNA Nanotechnology: Optimizing the Impact of Buffer Conditions on Chemical Ligation

Student(s) Claire Chan **Grade 12** **Town** Darien

* Office of Naval Research- U.S. Navy / U.S. Marine Corps --- High School- Certificate, \$75.00 gift card given by ONR

Darien Darien High School David Lewis
 6091 PS 3 Post-Robbing Behavioral Shifts in Native and Invasive Bees

Student(s) Stella Nehro **Grade 12** **Town** Darien

* Alumni Botany Awards --- Alumni High School Botany Award- \$100 Cash

East Lyme East Lyme High School Cecilia Prytko
 3182 LS 2 Baby Connect: A haptic solution for deaf parents

Student(s) Sashrika Das **Grade 10** **Town** East Lyme

* Connecticut Academy of Audiology Awards --- \$200 Award HS- For Excellence in Audiology and Acoustics, oport. to shadow an audiologist

Farmington Farmington High School Alexandra Raymunt
 6520 PST 1 Utilizing Banana Peels to Depollute Water

Student(s) Aniket Menon **Grade 10** **Town** Unionville
Andrew Nguyen **Grade 10** **Town** Farmington
Daniel Marimekala **Grade 10** **Town** Farmington

* IEEE, Connecticut Section --- \$250 Honors Award -Senior

Farmington Miss Porter's School Christine Scanlon
 3138 LS 3 How Cooking Affects Antioxidant Levels in Cauliflower and Their Role in Cancer Prevention

Student(s) Olivia Cheon **Grade 11** **Town** Seoul

* Institute of Food Technologists, Nutmeg Section --- \$200 award + invitation to Awards Night Dinner with guest

Glastonbury Glastonbury High School Stephen Falcigno
 6079 PS 1 OPTIMIZATION FEASIBILITY ANALYSIS OF COMPLIANT MECHANISM REPLACEMENTS OF
 HYDRAULICS IN PENDULUM TUNED MASS DAMPERS

Student(s) Diego Aguilar **Grade 12** **Town** South Glastonbury

* U.S. Metric Association --- Certificate & \$25 gift card given by CSEF
 * Anonymous Friends of the Fair Family Awards --- 3rd place - \$100 - For Excellence in Engineering High School

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Special Award Winners

[SchTown]	[School]	[Teacher]	[Proj#]	[FCat]	[Honors]	[Project Title]	Sponsor(s)	Award(s)
Glastonbury	Glastonbury High School	Stephen Falcigno	6035	PS	1	Green Cellulose Extraction From Autumn Leaves For Biodegradable Packaging Films		
Student(s) Ioana Popescu						Grade 11	Town Glastonbury	
* Air and Waste Management Association, Connecticut Chapter --- \$100 Senior, Environmental Research, waste recycling related								
Greenwich	Brunswick School	Dana Montañez	3525	LST	2	Linking Bacterial Contamination in Public Water Sources to Daphnia Behavior and Health		
Student(s) Owen Bartoszek						Grade 11	Town Greenwich	
Aidan Williams						Grade 11	Town Greenwich	
* Aquarion Water Company --- 2nd. \$250.00 Cash - Grade 9-12 For Excellence in Water Quality or Environmental Management								
Greenwich	Brunswick School	Dana Montanez	3536	LST	2	Biochar as a Bioremediation Method to Control Microplastic Effects on Agricultural Crops		
Student(s) Giancarlo Cuesta						Grade 10	Town Stamford	
Quinn Cunningham						Grade 10	Town Greenwich	
* Earth Forward Group, LLC --- 2nd Prize for Sustainable, Agriculture and Food Systems \$150 cash								
Greenwich	Brunswick School	Dana Montanez	3177	LS	1	Preventing Zoonotic Parasitic Growth in Freshwater Aquaculture Using Aerogel Praziquantel Feed Additives		
Student(s) Sawyer Sacks						Grade 11	Town Greenwich	
* Aquarion Water Company --- 3rd \$200.00 Cash - Grade 9-12 For Excellence in Water Quality or Environment Management								
Greenwich	Brunswick School	Dana Montanez	6039	PS	1	Comparative Study of Magnetohydrodynamic Propulsion Designs for Marine Applications		
Student(s) Jack Wendell						Grade 11	Town Greenwich	
* NASA EARTH System Science Award --- Certificate and \$25 gift card given by CSEF								
* University of Connecticut - Early College Experience --- UCONN Early College Experience Program: Physical Sciences - \$100 Cash								
Greenwich	Central Middle School	Andrew Bramante	2503	L8	1	In situ, Natural Degradation of Cyanotoxins in Water by L. acidiphilus, with Concurrent Stimulation of the Aquatic Ecosystem		
Student(s) Clarissa Maldonado						Grade 8	Town Greenwich	
* Ricoh Americas Corporation --- Certificate, \$25 gift card given by CSEF								
Greenwich	Eastern Middle School	Andrew Bramante	5515	P8	3	Computer Simulation for School Traffic Optimization		
Student(s) Ivyn Chen						Grade 8	Town Greenwich	
* Anonymous Friends of the Fair Family Awards --- 2nd place - \$150 - For Excellence in Engineering Middle School								

[SchTown]	[School]	[Teacher]	[Proj#]	[FCat]	[Honors]	[Project Title]	Sponsor(s)	Award(s)
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Greenwich Eastern Middle School Andrew Bramante

5506	P8	1	OASIS: A Solar-Powered Off-Grid System for Harvesting Water from Subsurface Sand Moisture to Support Desert Vegetation Recovery					
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Student(s) Jiahao Luo **Grade** 8 **Town** Greenwich

- * 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

Greenwich Greenwich Country Day School Nathan Haag

3099	LS	2	Viability of Freshwater Mussels as a Water-Management Tool in America					
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Student(s) Cate Auerswald **Grade** 12 **Town** Cos Cob

- * Stockholm Junior Water Prize --- Certificate, \$25 gift card by CSEF, possible advance to further competition

Greenwich Greenwich Country Day School Nathan Haag

6020	PS	3	Effects of different drive-signal strategies on refresh rate and resolution of a Micro controller-driven CRT display.					
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Student(s) Oliver Davis **Grade** 11 **Town** Riverside

- * Zepke Awards --- \$150 - For the Best Use of Electronic Circuitry- Senior High

Greenwich Greenwich High School Andrew Bramante

3094	LS	1	Determining how prevalence of single nucleotide polymorphisms alters HLA molecule's expression, and dictates Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis' best treatments in specific populations					
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Student(s) Tessa Addeo **Grade** 10 **Town** Greenwich

- * 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

Greenwich Greenwich High School Andrew Bramante

3185	LS	1	Development of a Novel Nanoparticle Drug Delivery System using OLAH Targeting to Deliver Surfactant Protein and Prevent Neonatal Respiratory Distress Syndrome					
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Student(s) Tyler Malkin **Grade** 10 **Town** Greenwich

- * Regeneron Biomedical Science Award --- Certificate & \$375.00 cash

Greenwich Greenwich High School Andrew Bramante

3125	LS	1	Creation of PACA nanoparticles with a chitosan bilayer for effective oral delivery of a sildenafil PDE-5					
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Student(s) Neil Pendkar **Grade** 11 **Town** Old Greenwich

- * Office of Naval Research- U.S. Navy / U.S. Marine Corps --- High School- Certificate, \$75 gift card given by ONR

Greenwich Greenwich High School Andrew Bramante

3059	LS	1	Discovery and Validation of Biopolymer Coatings for Nanoparticle-Loaded Silk Fibroin Sutures to Accelerate Tissue Regeneration with a Novel Multimodal Machine Learning Model					
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Student(s) Raghav Ramji **Grade** 10 **Town** Riverside

- * Connecticut Science Supervisors Association --- \$225 for a high school project

Conn. Science & Engineering Fair

Special Award Winners

[SchTown] [School] [Teacher]
 [Proj#] [FCat] [Honors] [Project Title] Sponsor(s) Award(s)

Greenwich Greenwich High School Andrew Bramante

6097 PS 1 Process Optimization of Green Chemistry Pathway for Fabric-to-Fabric Recycling of Cotton

Student(s) Marley Wies **Grade** 12 **Town** Old Greenwich

* Freeman Family Excellence in Chemistry Awards --- \$200 For Excellence in Chemistry or Chemical Engineering - High School

Greenwich Greenwich High School Andrew Bramante

3007 LS 1 Novel On Chip Screening Device for Ovarian Cancer with Algorithm from SVM-RFE on Serum miRNA Relative Expression Orderings

Student(s) Sophie Yu **Grade** 11 **Town** Riverside

* Lunch with a Patent Attorney --- Lunch with a Patent Attorney

Greenwich Sacred Heart Greenwich Joyce Reed

3203 LS 1 Hearing Loss's Correlation to Anxiety

Student(s) Haley Blackwell **Grade** 12 **Town** Rye

* The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven's Milton Fisher Awards for Innovation and Creativity --- For Excellence in Creativity and Innovation by a High School student, \$100 cash

* Connecticut Academy of Audiology Awards --- \$200 Award HS- For Excellence in Audiology and Acoustics, oport. to shadow an audiologist

Greenwich Sacred Heart Greenwich Mary Musolino

4007 PT 1 Evaluating Biodegradable Plastics Made from Avocados, Bananas, and Mangos

Student(s) Lauren Davidoff **Grade** 8 **Town** Pelham
 Grace Nicholas **Grade** 8 **Town** Armonk

* Connecticut Invention Convention "Next Step Inventors" --- Next Step Inventor Trophy & Invitation to compete at the 2026 Invention Convention Summer Finals, August 22

Greenwich Sacred Heart Greenwich Mary Musolino

4014 PT 3 Purifying Water using Different Types of Graphene to Adsorb Harmful Pollutants

Student(s) Adriana Hassani-Sadi **Grade** 8 **Town** Old Greenwich
 Malaika Bazie **Grade** 8 **Town** White Plains

* Aquarion Water Company --- 2nd. \$150.00 Cash - Grade 7-8 For Excellence in Water Quality or Environmental Management

Greenwich Sacred Heart Greenwich Mary Musolino

4004 PT 2 Evaluating the Effectiveness of Supplementing Simulated Lunar Soil to Promote Crop Growth for Future Lunar Missions

Student(s) Lily Hohensee **Grade** 8 **Town** Stamford
 Lily Chase **Grade** 8 **Town** Rye
 Paige Yantz **Grade** 8 **Town** Greenwich

* NASA EARTH System Science Award --- Certificate and \$25 gift card given by CSEF

[SchTown] [School] [Teacher]
 [Proj#] [FCat] [Honors] [Project Title] Sponsor(s) Award(s)

Greenwich Western Middle School Andrew Bramante
 5505 P8 1 Creating a Crab Trap That Uses Computer Vision To Detect and Capture the Invasive European Green Crab

Student(s) Laila McQueen **Grade 8** **Town** Greenwich

- * IEEE, Connecticut Section --- \$100 Honorable Mention
- * National Center for Inquiry Learning --- Daniel & Maggie Award for Imagination - MS \$100
- * Jon Stone Memorial Awards --- Jon Stone Award for Innovative Engineering- \$100

Greenwich Western Middle School Andrew Bramante
 5526 P8 1 Comparative analysis of CO2 Reduction by Common Houseplants Using an Arduino-Based Environmental Monitoring System

Student(s) Victoria Shkabarnya **Grade 8** **Town** Greenwich, CT

- * IEEE, Connecticut Section --- \$100 Honorable Mention
- * Robert Francoeur Memorial Awards --- Creative or innovative project in engineering, computer science or mathematics by female students - \$100
- * Zepke Awards --- \$120 - For the Best Use of Electronic Circuitry- Middle School

Hamden Hamden Hall Country Day School Paulomi Aldo
 5522 P8 3 Which shapes are the best for making the most aerodynamic car

Student(s) David Esposito **Grade 8** **Town** North Haven

- * U.S. Air Force --- Certificate & USAF Merchandise Package

Hamden Hamden Hall Country Day School Paulomi Aldo
 2510 L8 2 The Effect of Fungi on Plastic Decomposition

Student(s) Emma Gammans **Grade 8** **Town** Woodbridge

- * Ricoh Americas Corporation --- Certificate, \$25 gift card given by CSEF
- * Robotics and Beyond --- Middle School- For excellence in engineering design; \$230 toward admission to Robotics And Beyond STEM and Design summer camp, \$50 cash if cannot attend camp. Certificate.

Hamden Hamden Hall Country Day School Paulomi Aldo
 2505 L8 2 The Amount of Carbon Dioxide That Nannochloropsis, Chlorella, and Chlamydomonas can Photosynthesize

Student(s) Gabi Pereira **Grade 8** **Town** Hamden

- * Alumni Botany Awards --- Alumni Middle School Botany Award- \$100 Cash

Hamden Hamden Hall Country Day School Daniel Kemp
 6517 PST 3 How Does pH Affect the Corrosion Rate of Steel?

Student(s) Yuxiao Yang **Grade 9** **Town** Guilford
 Jiale Luo **Grade 9** **Town** Derby
 Xinyi Xiao **Grade 9** **Town** Derby

- * Stockholm Junior Water Prize --- Certificate, \$25 gift card by CSEF, possible advance to further competition

[SchTown] [School] [Teacher]
 [Proj#] [FCat] [Honors] [Project Title] Sponsor(s) Award(s)

Kent Kent School Michael Green
 3058 LS 3 MelodyMemo: A Novel Emotion-Aware Memory-Music Modeling and Recommendation System for Older Adults

Student(s) Newton Niu **Grade** 11 **Town** Stamford

* Bushnell Center for Performing Arts --- Pair of Tickets to & Juliet for top project that is behavioral or social sciences related

Kent Kent School Jesse Klingebiel
 6092 PS 2 Modular Development of a Pneumatic Lumbar Exoskeleton for Assisting Stoop Lifting

Student(s) Yu Tung Shan **Grade** 10 **Town** Kent

* Wisner Chairman's Award --- \$500 cash & plaque

Mansfield Edwin O. Smith High School Cheryl Granger
 3528 LST 1 Optimizing Jurkat Cell Cryopreservation Formulation for Safer T-Cell Therapy

Student(s) Alice Han **Grade** 11 **Town** Storrs

Bibhuti Marasini **Grade** 11 **Town** Storrs

* Marty Putnam Foundation Awards --- Top Project in Cell or Gene Therapy or Immunology, 1st Place \$300

Mansfield Edwin O. Smith High School Cheryl Granger
 3211 LS 2 Researching the Effects Of Different Concentrations of Formaldehyde on the Presence of Different Species of Bacteria in Soil

Student(s) Avery Hancock-Braun **Grade** 10 **Town** Storrs

* NASA EARTH System Science Award --- Certificate and \$25 gift card given by CSEF

Montville Saint Thomas More School Yajamana Ramu
 3129 LS 3 Towards Climate-Smart Agriculture: Decoding PP2C Gene Functions for Abiotic Stress Resilience in Maize

Student(s) Ami Rastogi **Grade** 11 **Town** Monroe Township

* Marty Putnam Foundation Awards --- Top Project in Cell or Gene Therapy or Immunology, 2nd Place \$200

New Haven Engineering and Science University Magnet Alyssa Anderson
 5008 P7 1 BiteSight: Development of a Mobile Deep Learning Application for Bug Bite Identification

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

* 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

New Haven Engineering and Science University Magnet Alyssa Anderson
 4011 PT 3 Which Material Erodes The Most

Student(s) Jacob Werlin **Grade** 7 **Town** New haven

Finnian Dooley **Grade** 7 **Town** New Haven

* National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration --- Certificate and \$25 gift card given by CSEF

[SchTown] [School] [Teacher]
 [Proj#] [FCat] [Honors] [Project Title] Sponsor(s) Award(s)

New Haven Hopkins School Phillip Stewart
 6040 PS 2 Arduino-Based Active Stabilization System for Model Rockets Using IMU Feedback and Servo-Driven Fins

Student(s) Aiden Gomez **Grade** 10 **Town** Orange

* U.S. Air Force --- Certificate & USAF Merchandise Package

New Haven Hopkins School Leilei Shinohara
 5521 P8 2 Optical Fire Detection using Computer Vision

Student(s) Maki Lawrence Shinohara **Grade** 8 **Town** New Haven

* American Society of Safety Professionals, CT Valley Chapter --- \$150 grade 7-8 project
 * Jon Stone Memorial Awards --- Jon Stone Award for Innovative Engineering- \$100

Norwich Norwich Technical High School Kaitlin McKale
 3057 LS 3 Influence of microplastic size and density on the structure of microbial communities: Implications for soil health

Student(s) Nyashia Bostick **Grade** 11 **Town** Willimantic

* Stockholm Junior Water Prize --- Certificate, \$25 gift card by CSEF, possible advance to further competition

Plainville Plainville High School Michelle Bellinger
 6005 PS 1 Improving Airplane Efficiency and Maximizing a Sustainable Angle of Attack Through Acoustic Streamlining

Student(s) Raman Kasabrukhou **Grade** 10 **Town** Plainville

* U.S. Air Force --- Certificate & USAF Merchandise Package

Pomfret Pomfret School Annie O'Sullivan
 6124 PS 2 Leg exoskeletons that can help people with leg disabilities walk

Student(s) Jiazhi Zhao **Grade** 10 **Town** Pomfret

* Biophysical Society --- Biophysics Award- \$100

Ridgefield Ridgefield High School Ryan Gleason
 3141 LS 2 Prevalence of Pathogens in Asian Longhorn Ticks (Haemaphysalis Longicornis) in Bridgeport Connecticut

Student(s) Sara Hill **Grade** 12 **Town** Ridgefield

* American Society of Safety Professionals, CT Valley Chapter --- \$200 grade 9-12 project

Simsbury Westminster School Mike Van Dolah
 6513 PST 1 Multi-Function Submersible for Microplastic Collection and Aquatic Environmental Analysis

Student(s) Muqiao Zong **Grade** 10 **Town** Simsbury

Andrew Ma **Grade** 11 **Town** Simsbury

* Air and Waste Management Association, Connecticut Chapter --- \$100 Senior, Environmental Research, waste recycling related
 * Electric Boat Management Association Science and Engineering Research Awards --- Top Prize in Nautical Research - \$100 Cash for top project that has innovative nautical applications

[SchTown]	[School]	[Teacher]	[Proj#]	[FCat]	[Honors]	[Project Title]	Sponsor(s)	Award(s)
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South Windsor	South Windsor High School	April Davis	6508	PST	3	Green Light AI		
Student(s)			Devdutt Bhatte			Grade 10	Town	South Windsor
			Jude Pohl			Grade 10	Town	South Windsor
			Srivashist Gaddam			Grade 10	Town	South Windsor

* Bushnell Center for Performing Arts --- Pair of Tickets to & Juliet - for top project involving technology and lights for Arts & Theatre Applications, if possible

South Windsor	South Windsor High School	Danel Eitel	6011	PS	2	From Fumes to Fertilizer: A Dual-Stage Catalytic System Converting Livestock Methane into Carbonate for Sustainable Crop Growth		
Student(s)			Aniron Pal			Grade 10	Town	South Windsor

* U.S. Metric Association --- Certificate & \$25 gift card given by CSEF

South Windsor	South Windsor High School	Danel Eitel	3518	LST	3	Cyanopanel		
Student(s)			Diva Shajith			Grade 10	Town	South Windsor
			Amariah Ysabelle Luci			Grade 10	Town	South Windsor
			Sahasra Natti			Grade 10	Town	South Windsor

* CT Architecture Foundation - The William M. Mack, AIA Awards --- \$250 Amazon Gift Card from the Connecticut Architecture Foundation, William M. Mack, AIA Award for Innovation in Building Sustainability.

* Air and Waste Management Association, Connecticut Chapter --- \$100 Senior, Environmental Research, air pollution related

South Windsor	South Windsor High School	Minatchy Visvanathan	6061	PS	2	DOTBot: Diffusion-Aligned Chain-of-Thought Bipedal Humanoid Robot for Interpretable Real-Time Autonomous Navigation, Hazard Mitigation, and Recovery in High-Risk Built Environments		
Student(s)			Karthik Srikumar			Grade 11	Town	South Windsor

* Yale Science & Engineering Association, Inc. --- 1 Certificate, Medallion and 1- \$25 gift card given by CSEF

* MTU Aero Engines North America, Inc. --- MTU Aero Engines Mechanical Engineering Innovative Concept Award - \$250

* MTU Aero Engines North America, Inc. --- MTU Aero Engines Mechanical Engineering Applied Principles Award - \$250

* Lunch with a Patent Attorney --- Lunch with a Patent Attorney

Stamford	King School	Victoria Schulman	6088	PS	1	Real-Time Instance Segmentation for Curb and Path Detection in Assistive Wearables for Blind and Low-Vision Assistance		
Student(s)			Olivia Ajayi			Grade 11	Town	Stamford

* American Society of Safety Professionals, CT Valley Chapter --- \$200 grade 9-12 project

Stamford	King School	Victoria Schulman	6072	PS	2	Predicting Detectability of Transiting Exoplanets: A Python-based Signal-to-Noise Ratio Model		
Student(s)			Mia Jakubowsky			Grade 11	Town	Rye

* Astronomical Society of Greater Hartford - The Charles Hammond for Excellence in Astronomy Award --- Senior Top Project-\$1000, subscription to Sky and Telescope, ASGH membership and meeting invitation

* Connecticut Association of Physics Teachers --- \$100 Senior project

Conn. Science & Engineering Fair

Special Award Winners

[SchTown]	[School]	[Teacher]	[Proj#]	[FCat]	[Honors]	[Project Title]	Sponsor(s)	Award(s)
Stamford	King School	Victoria Schulman	6083	PS	2	A Sustainable Treatment For Heavy Metal Pollution: Adsorption and Desorption of Ni(II) Ions In Water Using DNA-Wrapped Carbon Nanotubes		
			Student(s)		Bruno Reinhoefer Ribeiro	Grade 12	Town	Riverside
* Stockholm Junior Water Prize --- Certificate, \$25 gift card by CSEF, possible advance to further competition								
Stamford	King School	Victoria Schulman	3108	LS	2	Assessing the Effects of Equine Grazing Muzzles on Upper Incisor Length and Dental Qualities in Ponies		
			Student(s)		Marilyn Sommerville	Grade 11	Town	South Salem
* NYUC Pony Club Equine or Animal Science Awards --- \$100 Cash Award for excellence in equine studies								
Stamford	Laurel Springs School	Vera Ulanovskaya	6096	PS	2	Driven By Demand: A Mixed-Integer Linear Programming Framework to Optimize the Efficiency and Quality of Bus Services in Stamford, CT		
			Student(s)		Victoria Makarov	Grade 12	Town	Stamford
* Maplesoft Awards for Applied Mathematics and Modeling --- Maple software, , gift packs, & T-shirt - For Excellence in Mathematics								
Stonington	St. Michael School	Anna-Helene Grossomanides	5518	P8	3	Investigating the effect of tire type on robot performance		
			Student(s)		Tyler Baltrukonis	Grade 8	Town	Pawcatuck
* Office of Naval Research- U.S. Navy / U.S. Marine Corps --- Middle School- Certificate, \$25 gift card given by ONR								
Stonington	St. Michael School	Anna-Helene Grossomanides	5016	P7	3	Potter Hill Problem		
			Student(s)		Vito Gynther	Grade 7	Town	Westerly
* Geology/Historic Project of Merit Award --- \$100 - Earth Science - Field work with Geologic or historic value								
Stonington	St. Michael School	Anna-Helene Grossomanides	2507	L8	3	To Swim or Not To Swim		
			Student(s)		Camille Thomas	Grade 8	Town	Gales Ferry
* Schoepfer Award for Excellence in Local Aquatic Science --- For excellence in a local water quality study, \$50 cash								
Stratford	St. Mark School	Andrea Borbor	5512	P8	2	Crash! Testing Model Cars		
			Student(s)		Stella Jass	Grade 8	Town	Trumbull
* Anonymous Friends of the Fair Family Awards --- 1st place - \$250 - For Excellence in Engineering Middle School								

[SchTown]	[School]	[Teacher]	[Proj#]	[FCat]	[Honors]	[Project Title]	Sponsor(s)	Award(s)
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Trumbull	Trumbull Agriscience & Biotechnology	Kevin Boken	6056	PS	3	Development of a Multi-Axis Adaptive Inertia Regulation Exoskeleton System: A Counter-Rotational Gyroframe for Stabilization and Energy Efficiency		
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Student(s) Johnathon Lin **Grade** 10 **Town** Bridgeport

- * U.S. Metric Association --- Certificate & \$25 gift card given by CSEF
- * Electric Boat Management Association Science and Engineering Research Awards --- Top Prize in Nuclear Energy - \$100 Cash for top project that has innovative nuclear applications

Wallingford	Choate Rosemary Hall	Jan Cook	3111	LS	1	Innovative Restoration of Coastal Marine Ecosystems: Phage-Based Disease Control and pH Modulation in Connecticut Waters		
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Student(s) Taeyoung Kim **Grade** 10 **Town** Seattle

- * National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration --- Certificate and \$25 gift card given by CSEF

Wallingford	Choate Rosemary Hall	George Gu	6111	PS	1	NeuroMirror: An Intelligent EEG-Driven Mirror Therapy System Grounded in Hebbian Theory for Post-Stroke Upper-Limb Rehabilitation		
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Student(s) Sabrina Liu **Grade** 10 **Town** Wallingford

- * Office of Naval Research- U.S. Navy / U.S. Marine Corps --- High School- Certificate, \$75.00 gift card given by ONR
- * Connecticut Invention Convention "Next Step Inventors" --- Next Step Inventor Trophy & Invitation to compete at the 2026 Invention Convention Summer Finals, August 22

Wallingford	Choate Rosemary Hall	Talia Dell Angelo	6531	PST	2	Harvesting Water from Air: Optimization of a Novel Solar-Powered Atmospheric Water Generator		
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Student(s) Hsiao Chian Tseng **Grade** 11 **Town** Bellevue
 Hiyab Mebrahtu **Grade** 11 **Town** Haverford

- * Connecticut Invention Convention "Next Step Inventors" --- Next Step Inventor Trophy & Invitation to compete at the 2026 Invention Convention Summer Finals, August 22

Waterbury	ACES Chase Academy	Anne Pember	6022	PS	2	Using chitin and chitin-based derivatives to remove and remediate nitrates.		
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Student(s) Kathryn Thibeault **Grade** 9 **Town** Waterbury

- * Arthur & Ruth Mensing Award --- Mensing Award Excellence in the High School Physical Sciences - \$500

Watertown	The Taft School	Amanda Benedict	3179	LS	2	Investigating the Neuroprotective and Stress-Modulating Effects of Oxytocin on Human Cells under Cortisol-Induced Stress Conditions		
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Student(s) Esther Lee **Grade** 10 **Town** Watertown

- * Office of Naval Research- U.S. Navy / U.S. Marine Corps --- High School- Certificate, \$75.00 gift card given by ONR

Watertown	The Taft School	Amanda Benedict	6070	PS	1	A Novel Equestrian Virtual Reality-Based Coordination Rehabilitation System for Post-Stroke Motor Recovery		
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Student(s) Mily Xue **Grade** 10 **Town** Watertown

- * Anonymous Friends of the Fair Family Awards --- 2nd place - \$150 - For Excellence in Engineering High School

[SchTown] [School] [Teacher]
 [Proj#] [FCat] [Honors] [Project Title] Sponsor(s) Award(s)

Westport Greens Farms Academy Mathieu Freeman

6109 PS 1 Open Alert: A Novel Alert System For School Safety

Student(s) Benjamin Kiev **Grade** 9 **Town** Westport

* Connecticut Invention Convention "Next Step Inventors" --- Next Step Inventor Trophy & Invitation to compete at the 2026 Invention Convention Summer Finals, August 22

Westport Greens Farms Academy Mathieu Freeman

6044 PS 2 Developing a Methodology to Predict Flash Flooding in Southwestern Connecticut Using Historic Flood Events and Weather Data

Student(s) Oliver Rohrbasser **Grade** 12 **Town** Wilton

* Maplesoft Awards for Applied Mathematics and Modeling --- Maple software, gift packs, & T-shirt - For Excellence in Mathematics
 * Geology/Historic Project of Merit Award --- \$100 - Earth Science - Field work with Geologic or historic value

Westport Greens Farms Academy Julianne Gerdes

3040 LS 3 The Psychology of Yondr Pouches and The Impact on Student Well-being

Student(s) Amalia Slade **Grade** 12 **Town** Westport

* American Psychological Association --- Certificate, \$25 gift card given by CSEF

Westport Greens Farms Academy Mathieu Freeman

3016 LS 3 A Data-Driven Evaluation of Behavioral and Dermatologic Factors in Adolescent Skincare Practices in the Context of Social Media Exposure

Student(s) Anika Vaidheeswaran **Grade** 11 **Town** Stamford

* American Psychological Association --- Certificate, \$25 gift card given by CSEF

Westport Staples High School Amy Parent

6025 PS 2 Evaluation the Therapeutic Potential of Curcumin in Improving Motor Neuron Health in Spinal Muscular Atrophy

Student(s) Sofia DiLeo **Grade** 12 **Town** Westport

* University of Connecticut - Early College Experience --- UCONN Early College Experience Program: Life Sciences - \$100 Cash

Westport Staples High School Amy Parent

3186 LS 1 Comparing deep learning architectures with multispectral imaging for early detection of Black Cutworms on Bush Beans

Student(s) Ezra Schwartz **Grade** 12 **Town** Westport

* J.A. Augustine and H. Glista Awards --- \$100 H. Glista Award for Life Sciences

[SchTown] [School] [Teacher]
 [Proj#] [FCat] [Honors] [Project Title] Sponsor(s) Award(s)

Wilton Middlebrook School Leah Pariso

4002 PT 2 Dual Axis Automatic Solar Tracker

Student(s) **Aarya Patel** **Grade 7** **Town** Wilton
Aaryan Patel **Grade 7** **Town** Wilton

- * Society of Women Engineers - Hartford Section --- Scientific Calculator
- * MIT Club of Hartford K-12 Initiative --- For excellence in science & technology of energy related research, middle school, \$100 cash award
- * Jon Chapitis Memorial Award --- Jon Chapitis Spirit of Innovation Award - MS \$100
- * Dreams Unlimited Award --- \$150 cash award and certificate

Wilton Middlebrook School Jessica Garcia

5519 P8 1 How Microplastics in Water Affects Cymatics

Student(s) **Jiya Praveen** **Grade 8** **Town** Wilton

- * Ricoh Americas Corporation --- Certificate, \$25 gift card given by CSEF
- * Connecticut Science Supervisors Association --- \$175 for a middle school project
- * Aquarion Water Company --- 1st. \$200.00 Cash - Grade 7-8 For Excellence in Water Quality or Environmental Management

Wilton Middlebrook School Janica Bagosy

5525 P8 1 Smart Plant Care: Using Automation and AI

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

- * Office of Naval Research- U.S. Navy / U.S. Marine Corps --- Middle School- Certificate, \$25 gift card given by ONR

Wilton Wilton High School Nomita Ramchandani

6026 PS 2 OleoFoam: A Magnetically Controlled Oleophilic Foam for Targeted Oil Absorption

Student(s) **Arav Gupta** **Grade 10** **Town** Wilton

- * J.A. Augustine and H. Glista Awards --- \$100 for excellence in Physical Sciences

Wilton Wilton High School Matthew Hoyt

6087 PS 2 Improving Space Weather Forecasting Through Multivariate Machine Learning Analysis for SPE (Solar Particle Event) Prediction.

Student(s) **Ishanvi Jaiswal** **Grade 11** **Town** Wilton

- * Astronomical Society of Greater Hartford - The Charles Hammond for Excellence in Astronomy Award --- Senior Honorable Mention Project-\$500, subscription to Sky and Telescope, ASGH membership and meeting invitation

Windsor Academy of Aerospace & Engineering Joshua Madore

6093 PS 2 Optimizing the Efficiency of Solar Cells using Enhanced Cooling Techniques.

Student(s) **Palaniappan Manikandan** **Grade 10** **Town** Ellington

- * CT Architecture Foundation - The William M. Mack, AIA Awards --- \$250 Amazon Gift Card from the Connecticut Architecture Foundation, William M. Mack, AIA Award for Innovation in Building Performance.

Windsor The Loomis Chaffee School Fahmeed Sheehan

6027 PS 2 Continual Learning with Elastic Weight Consolidation for Human Tree Person Test Frameworks

Student(s) **Ria Sunwoo An** **Grade 11** **Town** Windsor

- * J.A. Augustine and H. Glista Awards --- \$100 H. Glista Award for Physical Sciences

[SchTown] [School] [Teacher]
 [Proj#] [FCat] [Honors] [Project Title] Sponsor(s) Award(s)

Windsor The Loomis Chaffee School Fahmeed Sheehan
 6122 PS 1 LISTEN – A Robotic Leak Identification System using TDNN and ENhanced Acoustic Features for Pipeline Detection

Student(s) Jiaxuan Li **Grade** 11 **Town** Cupertino

- * American Society of Safety Professionals, CT Valley Chapter --- \$200 grade 9-12 project
- * IEEE, Connecticut Section --- \$100 Honorable Mention
- * Zepke Awards --- \$150 - For the Best Use of Electronic Circuitry- Senior High

Windsor The Loomis Chaffee School Fahmeed Sheehan
 3019 LS 2 Can Dead Bacteria Clean Up Our Gardens? Using EPS-Rich Biomass and Biochar to Lower Soil Lead Below 200 ppm

Student(s) Li-An Ye **Grade** 9 **Town** San Jose

- * Association for Women Geoscientists --- Certificate & \$25 gift card given by CSEF

Woodbridge Amity Regional High School Sarah Reeves
 3198 LS 2 Developing a Predictive App for Water Quality: Modeling E. Coli Quantification Through Spatiotemporal Variables

Student(s) Chloe Chang **Grade** 11 **Town** Orange

- * Society for In Vitro Biology --- Certificate and \$25 gift card given by CSEF
- * Southeastern New England Marine Educators (SEMEME) --- \$100 award and membership for student and teacher in SENEME - 1st Place Senior

Woodbridge Amity Regional High School Sarah Reeves
 3180 LS 1 Determining the Accuracy of Biomarker TNF- α in Predicting Ketamine Treatment Outcomes for Veterans with PTSD & MDD

Student(s) Mila Mejnartowicz **Grade** 12 **Town** Woodbridge

- * Office of Naval Research- U.S. Navy / U.S. Marine Corps --- High School- Certificate, \$75.00 gift card given by ONR

Woodbridge Amity Regional High School Lindsay McCarthy
 6012 PS 2 Developing a Bio-Hybrid Luminescent Solar Concentrator Using Carbon Quantum Dots, Natural Fluorophores, and Kaolin Powder for Enhanced Solar Energy Harvesting

Student(s) Aryan Shrivastav **Grade** 11 **Town** Orange

- * Westinghouse Electric Company/New England Chapter of North American Young Generation in Nuclear --- 1st place, Excellence in Energy Research, \$100 cash award
- * Jon Chapitis Memorial Award --- Jon Chapitis Spirit of Innovation Award - HS \$200