



CONNECTICUT
SCIENCE &
ENGINEERING
— FAIR —



2024
Annual Report
Connecticut Science Fair
Association, Inc.

President's Message

It has been an exciting year for the Connecticut Science and Engineering Fair! Our finalist judging was face-to-face for the first time in five years. I can confidently say that the live experience was tremendously fulfilling for our students and judges. I cannot thank our many volunteers enough for all the hard work to ensure that live judging proceeded smoothly. As always, I am especially grateful to our Fair Director, Dr. Frank LaBanca, for his tireless dedication to Connecticut's premier science and engineering fair.

In the 2024 science fair competition, 372 projects representing middle and high schools across our state participated in preliminary virtual judging. Finalists consisted of 167 projects which represents 45% of entered projects. Our top winners of major categories were seven of the brightest and most talented young ladies in our state who went on to compete at the International Science and Engineering Fair held in Los Angeles, California. Our ISEF winners competed against 1350 projects from 370 fairs, representing 67 countries, regions, and territories. I am proud to report that our ISEF winners received one special award and four Grand Awards. Congratulations to our ISEF winners!

Together with our Board of Directors and many volunteers, we are excited and looking forward to the 2025 fair which will be the 77th fair in our rich history. We will continue our recent tradition of virtual preliminary judging so that every student will have the opportunity to interact and interview with expert judges representing academia, government, non-profits, and industry. Finalist judging will be in person at Quinnipiac University, barring any unforeseen weather events. As always, I am looking forward to meeting our state's brightest and most talented students at the 2025 Fair.

Respectfully submitted,



Brad Guilani, *President*
presidentguilani@ctsciencefair.org

2024-2025 Activities

2024

76th Connecticut Science and Engineering Fair –

Conducted in hybrid format, March, 2024

International Science and Engineering Fair – *Held in person in Los Angeles, California*

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

2024

77th Connecticut Science and Engineering Fair – *scheduled to be conducted in hybrid format, March 2025*

International Science and Engineering Fair – *scheduled to be conducted in person in Columbus, Ohio, May 2025.*

GENIUS Olympiad – *scheduled for June 2025 at Rochester Institute of Technology*

Fair's Mission

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

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

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

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

Financials[‡]

2024 Fiscal Year October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024

Income:

Grant & Award Contributions	\$ 66,077
Donations for special awards	\$ 14,787
Project registration	\$ 26,135
Total income	\$106,999

Expenses:

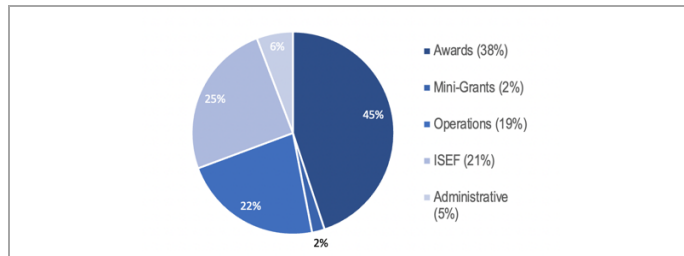
Student Awards- Trophies, plaques, T-shirts	\$ 55,269 [§]
Mini-Grants	\$ 2,498
State Fair Operating Expenses	\$ 27,541
International Science and Engineering Fair	\$ 30,576
Administrative	\$ 7,134
Total expenses	\$123,018 [◇]

[§] Includes only awards administered by CSEF. Special awards which are conveyed directly to the students by the sponsoring organizations have an estimated value of over \$950,000 including college scholarships.

[◇] Supplemental funds were leveraged from our perpetual fund to manage this year's shortfall.

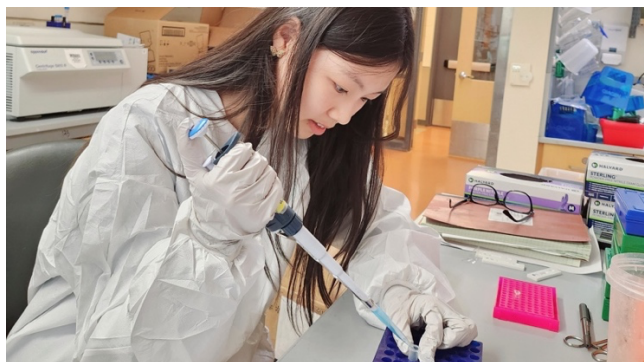
[‡] Financials are subject to final review and audit.

How Funds Were Used



2024 Accomplishments

- **506** students (an increase of 13% from 2023), **254** female, **244** male, and **8** other/not reported from **86** schools and regional fairs presented projects at our State Fair held March 5-16.
- The Urban School Challenge program was expanded to include public schools from the 33 towns in the Alliance District Program as defined by the state of Connecticut. Top placing students compete at the International Science & Engineering Fair and GENIUS Olympiad. Five schools were awarded \$500 minigrants to fund research program supplies and travel to compete at Connecticut Science & Engineering Fair (CSEF).
- An estimated 6,500 students compete in school and regional science fairs to qualify for the Connecticut Science & Engineering Fair.
- **Over 400** awards and scholarships having a total value of over \$1,000,000 were presented at the 2024 State Fair. **94** award sponsors including professional societies, businesses, colleges, individual contributors, Fair alumni, and Fair funding made this outstanding program possible.
- We served as qualifying competition for International Science & Engineering Fair, GENIUS Olympiad, Thermo Fisher Junior Innovators Challenge middle school competition, and the National Stockholm Junior Water Prize.
- Seven student projects were selected to attend the International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) in Los Angeles, California.
- Six CSEF students were selected to compete at GENIUS Olympiad.
- Three CSEF middle school students were national finalists in the Thermo Fisher Junior Innovators Challenge.
- Approximately three hundred scientists, engineers, and educators served as judges.
- Fourteen fair categories were conducted this year, providing recognition opportunities for multiple technical disciplines and urban settings.
- The Board engaged in a significant revision and update of their bylaws to better position itself to continue its all-volunteer work.



Sponsors and Supporters

Major Category Awards

Alexion
Boehringer Ingelheim Cares Foundation
CMS/Dorothy Minervino
PepsiCo
The Jackson Laboratory
Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering
Otis

Special Category Awards

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

Alumni/Friends

Banning Family
Evelyn Brown
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Leask Family
Lessoft Family
David Liscinsky
Sandra & Wynn Müller
Otero Family - ISEF '96, '97, '98
Schoepfer Family
Wisner Family – ISEF '58, '59
Bruce Zepke

Business Friends

Adobe
Barker Specialty Company
Demos "R" Us
Hedges & Hedges
National Center for Inquiry Learning
Spencer Sloane Photography
TechSoup

College Scholarships

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

2024 Recognition Awards

5 Years Participation

Shriya Jonnalagadda, Brookfield High School
Snigtha Mohanraj, Engineering and Science University Magnet School

4 Years Participation

Ana-Lois Davis, Academy of Aerospace and Engineering
Zara Haque, Greenwich High School
Ann Song, Choate Rosemary Hall
Suchita Srinivasan, Cheshire High School

10 Year Service Award

Mitchell Charkiewicz, Central Connecticut State University
Gerald DePardo,
Gary Felberbaum, IEEE - CT
Brad Guilani, Otis
Robert Higgins
Diana McCarthy-Bercury, Earth Forward Group
Kristi Moore, Alexion AstraZeneca Rare Disease
Steve Seiser
Alan Siniscalchi, CACIWC
Natalia Sudyka
James Zibluk

15 Year Service Award

Jonathan Harger
Paul Margiott, Raytheon (retired)
Rebecca Meyer, Sustainable Quill
Jack Solomon

20 Year Service Award

Steven Kerr, Boehringer Ingelheim (retired)

25 Year Service Award

Bruce Zepke

30 Year Service Award

Ann Frattalone, Henry Abbott Technical High School (retired)
John Pellino, Talcott Mountain Science Center
Scott Tracy, Astronomical Society of Greater Hartford

35 Year Service Award

Carol Coppa, Society of Women Engineers - Hartford
John Morgan, Architect

40 Year Service Award

Ernest P. Gagnon, United Technologies (retired)

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Officers

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Dr. Jose Manuel Otero, Lexeo Therapeutics

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

Connecticut Science Fair Association, Inc.

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an all-volunteer Connecticut nonprofit organization

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