



One of the four Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh

MEDIA ALERT
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CARNEGIE SCIENCE CENTER ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF PITTSBURGH REGIONAL SCIENCE & ENGINEERING FAIR

FOUR LOCAL STUDENTS ADVANCE TO INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FAIR

PITTSBURGH, March 29, 2014 — Nearly 1,100 students representing nearly 120 schools throughout the region competed yesterday in Carnegie Science Center's 75th annual Pittsburgh Regional Science & Engineering Fair (PRSEF)—one of the largest science fairs in the nation. This year's participation was the second highest in the history of the local science fair. Awards totaled \$1 million in cash and scholarships, and winners were announced at a ceremony at Heinz Field today. In honor of the fair's 75th anniversary, alumni of the fair from decades past were invited to attend the ceremony and a reception afterwards.

Four students were selected to represent the region at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) – to be held in Los Angeles in May. These young scientists, whose projects were chosen from a pool of 275 senior division entries, are: Songela Chen, North Allegheny Senior High School (Wexford, Pa.), for “n-3 PUFAs Benefit Microglial Response to Myelin Pathology”; Akash Levy, Taylor Allderdice High School (Squirrel Hill), for “Piezoforce Imaging of Confined Oxide Nanowires”; Rishi Mirchandani, Fox Chapel Area High School, for “The Impact of Demand Elasticity on the Downs-Thomson and Braess Paradoxes”; and Suvir Mirchandani, Fox Chapel Area High School, for “Fuzzy Logic Based Web Browser for the Disabled.”

Rishi, Grade 11, and Suvir, Grade 9, are brothers. Rishi represented the region at ISEF in 2013, and Suvir has been garnering national attention for his research demonstrating that his school could save \$21,000 per year, and the U.S. Government could save \$230 million per year, just by changing to Garamond font, which is the most frugal for ink usage. Suvir presented this research originally three years ago as a sixth-grader at PRSEF, and in 2013 he created a video based on this research and entered it in Carnegie Science Center's i5 Digital Video Competition. This month, his research was published in *Science*, and Suvir has been interviewed on CNN and Huffington Post.

ISEF will bring together nearly 1,700 students from 70 nations and territories to compete for scholarships, tuition grants, internships, scientific field trips, and the grand prize: a trip to attend the Nobel Prize Ceremonies in Stockholm. Carnegie Science Center was instrumental in the selection of Pittsburgh to host ISEF in 2012, 2015, and 2018.

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Pittsburgh Regional Science and Engineering Fair Winners

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Selected to receive Carnegie Science Awards were three students, one each from the Junior, Intermediate, and Senior divisions: sixth-grader Dilan Gangopadhyay, Pennsylvania Cyber Charter School, for “Disinfecting Dangerous Drinking Water”; Kevin Chen, Fort Couch Middle School, for “From Tables to Graphs: Restructuring Highly Connected Data”; and Rishi Mirchandani, who is also among the students selected to attend ISEF.

Among other honors, 125 students won Perseverance Awards for longevity of participation in PRSEF, and 17 universities awarded more than 80 scholarships. Falk Laboratory School (Oakland) won the award for most category winners in the Junior Division, Freeport Junior High School (Sarver, Pa.) in the Intermediate Division, and Fox Chapel Area High School in the Senior Division.

2014 Pittsburgh Regional Science and Engineering Fair First Place Category Award Winners:

All first-place category award projects will be on display at Carnegie Science Center from Monday, March 31, through Sunday, April 6.

Junior (grade 6)

Consumer Science — Futen Wan, Ingomar Middle School, North Hills section of Pittsburgh

Life Science — Leo Dombrowski, Falk Laboratory School, Oakland section of Pittsburgh

Physical Science — Dilan Gangopadhyay, PA Cyber Charter School, Pittsburgh

Intermediate (grades 7–8)

Behavioral and Social Science — Adaline Bradish, Yough Intermediate/Middle School, Ruffsdale, Pa.

Biology — Joseph Anand, Blessed Pope John Paul II Science Cooperative, Wexford, Pa.

Chemistry — Drew Koleck, Freeport Junior High School, Freeport, Pa.

Computer Science/Math -- Kevin Chen, Fort Couch Middle School, Upper St. Clair, Pa.

Consumer Science — Lauren Vuono, St. Thomas More School, Bethel Park, Pa.

Earth/Space/Environment — Sarthak Navjivan, Dorseyville Middle School, Fox Chapel

Engineering/Robotics — Joseph Zito, Pittsburgh Science and Technology Academy, Oakland section of Pittsburgh

Medicine/Health/Microbiology – Sam Casale, The Campus School of Carlow University, Oakland section of Pittsburgh

Physics — Nadine Oury, Falk Laboratory School, Oakland section of Pittsburgh

Senior (grades 9–12)

Behavioral and Social Science — Morgan Scott, Cambria Heights High School, Patton, Pa.

Biology — Lauren Casertano, St. Joseph High School, Natrona Heights, Pa.

Chemistry — Jonathan Mulick, Bishop Canevin High School, Oakwood, Pa.

Computer Science/Math — Rishi Mirchandani, Fox Chapel Area High School.

Earth/Space/Environment — Mason Zadan, Eden Christian Academy, Sewickley, Pa.

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Engineering/Robotics — Mihir Garimella, Dorseyville Middle School, Fox Chapel

Medicine/Health/Microbiology — Songela Chen, North Allegheny Senior High School , Wexford, Pa.

Physics — Akash Levy, Taylor Alderdice High School , Squirrel Hill section of Pittsburgh

For a complete list of winners at all levels in all categories, visit

http://www.scitechfestival.com/pdf/CategoryAwardWinners_3_29_14.pdf

About the Pittsburgh Regional Science & Engineering Fair

The Pittsburgh Regional Science & Engineering Fair, a Pittsburgh tradition since 1940, is the third oldest fair in the country under the affiliation of Science Services, Inc., which facilitates the International Science & Engineering Fair. The Science Fair is a program of Carnegie Science Center's Chevron Center for STEM Education and Career Development, promoting a scientifically and technologically literate workforce and a knowledgeable, inspired public. For information, visit PittsburghScienceFair.org.

About Carnegie Science Center

Carnegie Science Center is dedicated to inspiring learning and curiosity by connecting science and technology with everyday life. By making science both relevant and fun, the Science Center's goal is to increase science literacy in the region and motivate young people to seek careers in science and technology. One of the four Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh, the Science Center is Pittsburgh's premier science exploration destination, reaching more than 700,000 people annually through its hands-on exhibits, camps, classes, and off-site education programs.

About Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh

Founded by Andrew Carnegie in 1895, Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh is a collection of four distinctive museums dedicated to exploration through art and science: Carnegie Museum of Art, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Carnegie Science Center, and The Andy Warhol Museum. Annually, the museums reach more than 1.2 million people through exhibitions, educational programs, outreach activities, and special events.

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