

PRESENTATION FOR SCIENCE FAIR

Board Meeting: May 09, 2019

SCIENCE FAIR INTRODUCTION (Dr. Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr.):

- **Scientific research** empowers our students to ask important questions and advance their knowledge of the world around them.
- It is my pleasure to introduce a group of first place winners from the Northern Virginia Regional Science Fair which was held in March. We wish to commend all 69 students who were nominated to participate in the regional science fair this year.
- Many of these students have been working on their research for over several months or years, and will compete in competition at the state and national level in May and June. We are especially proud of these student scientists for their creativity and critical thinking as they work to explore scientific questions and solve problems in our community.
- **To present our award winners, I am pleased to introduce Ms. Jennifer Lay, our Instructional Specialist for Science.**

REMARKS AND RECOGNITIONS (Ms. Jennifer Lay):

The science fair is a year-long educational process that engages students in grades 7-12 in the process of observation, research, exploration, data collection, and explanation.

- Students present their scientific research using trifold boards and a short presentation that tells a story about what they learned.
- These projects are then evaluated at school, regional, state, and national competitions.
- In January, school-based competitions were held at Francis C. Hammond Middle School, George Washington Middle School, and Jefferson-Houston School. The middle schools then sent up to 50 students each to the ACPS Science Fair at T.C. Williams High School on January 24. High school teachers also selected approximately 200 students to participate in the ACPS Science Fair.
- 60 projects were chosen to advance to the Northern Virginia Regional Science Fair at Wakefield High School in Arlington, VA on March 16. At that science fair, six high school students were chosen to advance to the Virginia State Science and Engineering Fair (VSSEF) in April and two middle school students were chosen to advance to Broadcom Masters, an online national science fair competition.
- Overall, 45 students were recognized with a 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place category award at the regional science fair. This evening, we recognize the 13 first place winners. In addition, 54 society awards were given out to ACPS students that include an invitation to a summer experience at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, professional memberships, and cash prizes between \$15 and \$100.
- We are very proud of every student who participated in the science fair process this year. It is now my great pleasure to introduce the first place winners from the regional science fair. We ask that when your name is called, please come up to be recognized, and stay standing until everyone has been called. Please hold your applause until all of the students have come forward.

First Place Middle School Students

- Isabel Blackburn, Microbiology, What are the Most Common Germs in School?
- Ruth Christino, Biochemistry, How Synthetic Grass Fibers Affect Water Quality
- Lucia Gil-Reynolds and Evelyn Sirois, Behavioral and Social Sciences, Toxic Air
- Catherine Goldstein, Environmental and Earth Sciences, All That Glitters is Not Gold: Testing the Biodegradability of Glitter
- Shota Pinkowski, Environmental and Earth Sciences, Bio Filter, Broadcom Masters Nominee
- Lucy Savarie, Behavioral and Social Sciences, Slam Dunk the Junk: The Effect of Clean or Dirty Trash on Behavior, Broadcom Masters Nominee
- Natalie Vaile, Environmental and Earth Sciences, Solar Versus Wind: Which Produces More Energy?

First Place High School Students

- Sydney Bell, Animal Science, Oyster's Filtration Rate of Nitrogen and Ammonium Sulfate, VSSEF Nominee
- Brendan Doney and Owen Cardwell, Engineering, An Autonomous Quadcopter for Urban Search and Rescue, VSSEF Nominee
- Katherine Donnellan and Nikolai Kosinski, Environmental and Earth Sciences, Mega 'Mounts of Microplastics: The Effect of the Size of a Watershed on Microplastic Concentration in Corresponding Bodies of Water
- Leslie Lytle, Chemistry, Developing a Biodegradable Bioplastic for Consumer Safety and Commercial Applications Grand Prize Alternate Awardee, VSSEF Nominee
- Michaela McCormack, Behavioral and Social Services, Sleep's Affect on Cognitive Capability in Fruit Flies, VSSEF Nominee
- Tessa Naughton-Rockwell, Animal Science, Saving the Bees: The Correlation of Internal Beehive Temperature and Neonicotinoid Residues, VSSEF Nominee

Please join us in congratulating these students on their amazing accomplishment.

CONCLUDING REMARKS (Dr. Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr.):

- The science fair process is a positive opportunity for our students, and we look forward to next year's science fair.
- We would like to recognize the parents and families for their support.
- Finally, we recognize the teachers and school leaders who made this event possible. We are grateful for the extra work that went into supporting our student scientists all years long, and we recognize and appreciate your commitment to your students.