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TWO PITTSBURGH STUDENTS TO COMPETE IN BROADCOM MASTERS
LOCAL STUDENTS TO COMPETE IN PRESTIGIOUS NATIONAL STEM CONTEST

PITTSBURGH, Oct. 3, 2014 — Local students Nikhil Behari and Annika Urban will compete this month in a rigorous national science competition. They were selected after their performance in Carnegie Science Center's Pittsburgh Regional Science & Engineering Fair (PRSEF) in March.

The students are two of 30 finalists who will compete in the Broadcom MASTERS, a five-day STEM competition in Washington, D.C.

Broadcom MASTERS (Math, Applied Science, Technology, and Engineering for Rising Stars) is a premier science and technology competition for middle school students. Finalists were selected by a panel of distinguished scientists and engineers from among 300 semifinalists and 2,054 applicants representing 46 states, Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico.

Nikhil Behari placed third in PRSEF's Computer Science/Math category as an 8th grade student from Ingomar Middle School in North Allegheny School District. He will be presenting his project titled "*Latencies, Haptics, & Passwords.*"

Behari's project aims to increase security of online password-protected information. Experiments testing how users type their passwords will help determine secondary authentication. The tests will collect data on keystroke pressure and latency.

"Passwords can be easily stolen or hacked, therefore, a secondary form of authentication is necessary," Behari said in his PRSEF project abstract.

Annika Urban placed second in the Engineering/Robotics category as a 7th grader from Dorseyville Middle School in Fox Chapel Area School District. She will present her project called "*The Stethoscope.*"

“The Stethoscope” tests the application of a portable device that can transmit vital data from the heart and lungs to health care professionals. This portable stethoscope can be connected to a cell phone to transmit the data. The goal is to make participants more responsible for their health.

Broadcom MASTERS and Carnegie Science Center both strive to enhance quality education and promote students’ interests in STEM careers.

Winners will be announced on Oct. 28.

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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