



MEDIA ALERT | For Immediate Release

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THREE LOCAL STUDENTS HEADED TO PRESTIGIOUS SCIENCE COMPETITION

THEY ARE AMONG 30 NATIONAL BROADCOM MASTERS® FINALISTS

PITTSBURGH, October 6, 2017 – Three Allegheny County students are among 30 national finalists for the Broadcom MASTERS® — the nation’s most prestigious competition for middle school students in the STEM fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

The finalists participated in the Covestro Pittsburgh Regional Science & Engineering Fair, or Covestro PRSEF, presented by Carnegie Science Center, in March, when they were eighth-graders, which led to them being nominated for the initial phase of the Broadcom MASTERS® competition. More than 6,000 students were nominated by placing among the top 10 percent of middle school competitors at Society for Science & the Public-affiliated regional and state science fairs across the United States, including the Covestro PRSEF, and 2,499 entered. Finalists are eligible to compete in Washington later this month for more than \$100,000 in awards, including a top prize of \$25,000.

The finalists are:

- Ninth-grader Meghna Behari from North Allegheny Intermediate High School in McCandless, Pennsylvania, whose project is “Aquabot: An Integrated Modular Platform for Testing and Monitoring Surface Water Quality.” She was an eighth-grader at Marshall Middle School in Marshall Township.
- Ninth-grader Honora “Nora” David from Shady Side Academy in Fox Chapel, Pennsylvania, whose project is “Do Pollinators Prefer Native Plants, Cultivars, or Nativars? A Two-Year Study.” She was an eighth-grader at Shady Side Academy.

- Ninth-grader Sanjay Seshan from Fox Chapel Area High School in Fox Chapel, Pennsylvania, whose project is “Keeping Our Heads Above Water: Early Detection of Stress in Buried Water Pipes.” He was an eighth-grader at Dorseyville Middle School in Indiana Township, Pennsylvania.

Each finalist and a parent or guardian receive an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington to attend the Broadcom MASTERS® Finals Week competition from Oct. 20-24, 2017. Winners will be named Oct. 24 after finalists participate in a rigorous competition that will test their abilities in STEM, critical thinking, communication, creativity, and collaboration.

Broadcom MASTERS®, founded and produced by the Society for Science & the Public, will recognize each finalist’s science teacher with a one-year classroom subscription to *Science News* magazine and has given each finalist’s middle school \$1,000 to use toward STEM activities.

“We are thrilled that three Covestro Pittsburgh Regional Science & Engineering Fair participants are among the 30 Broadcom MASTERS® finalists,” said Lisa Kosick, science fair director and education coordinator for Carnegie Science Center.

“It is exciting to see these young scientists receive that kind of national recognition for their outstanding research.”

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

Established in 1895 by Andrew Carnegie, Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh is a collection of four distinctive museums: Carnegie Museum of Art, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Carnegie Science Center, and The Andy Warhol Museum. In 2016, the museums reached more than 1.4 million people through exhibitions, educational programs, outreach activities, and special events.

About Broadcom Foundation

Founded in April 2009, the Broadcom Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation with its main mission to advance science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education by funding research, recognizing scholarship and increasing opportunity.

The foundation inspires young people to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) through its signature programs, the Broadcom MASTERS® and the Broadcom MASTERS® International, premier science and engineering competitions for middle school students around the United States and the world.

About Society for Science & the Public

Society for Science & the Public is dedicated to the achievement of young scientists in independent research and to public engagement in science. Established in 1921, the Society is a nonprofit whose vision is to promote the understanding and appreciation of science and the vital role it plays in human advancement. Through its world-class competitions, including the Regeneron Science Talent Search, the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair, and the Broadcom MASTERS, and its award-winning magazine, *Science News* and *Science News for Students*, Society for Science & the Public is committed to inform, educate, and inspire.

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