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CARNEGIE SCIENCE CENTER NAMES SCIENCE FAIR WINNERS **AFTER VIRTUALLY JUDGING 900+ PROJECTS**

PITTSBURGH, April 28, 2020 — While this year’s Covestro Pittsburgh Regional Science & Engineering Fair (PRSEF) was canceled due to public health concerns surrounding COVID-19, Carnegie Science Center PRSEF organizers determined a way to virtually judge more than 900 projects and hand out major scholarships and awards.

PRSEF awarded three Carnegie Science Awards, nominated eight students as Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) finalists, designated two students as Thompson Scholarship Award winners, and connected 29 students with scholarship awards worth more than \$400,000 from regional colleges and universities.

“Hundreds of students put countless hours into their projects, which tackled some serious scientific topics like cancer research, cyber security, climate change, and so much more,” Science Fair Director Nicki Wood said. “While we’re sad they couldn’t present their research in person due to social distancing restrictions, we’re thrilled to have found a way to virtually judge each project and recognize their hard work.”

The process of selecting the award winners varied by award type, described below.

Carnegie Science Awards

To determine this year’s student recipients of the Carnegie Science Awards, each PRSEF participant’s research plan and abstract were reviewed by the judge advisory committee and a panel of subject matter experts and category chair personnel. The judge advisory committee selected the final award recipients.

The 2020 Carnegie Science Award winners are:

- **Maya Gelman**, Community Day School (Junior Division)
 - *Project: Testing bicycle braking methods to minimize brake overheating*
- **Aurea Hickenboth**, Saint John Paul II Homeschool Co-op (Intermediate Division)
 - *Project: Effect of insulation on the temperature of overwintering honeybee hives*
- **Emily Jeong**, Pittsburgh Allderdice High School (Senior Division)
 - *Project: Effects of rapamycin and metformin on exosome secretion in cancer cells*

These students will be recognized at the 24th Annual Carnegie Science Awards Celebration – the Science Center’s annual fundraiser and signature celebration of innovation in our region – on Sept. 17, 2020. More details can be found at CarnegieScienceCenter.org/Awards.

Regeneron ISEF

ISEF finalists were required to submit an ISEF application and research paper in addition to their abstract and research plan. The research papers – written in the style of a paper published in a scientific journal – were used by the ISEF selection committee and subject matter experts to judge and select the following ISEF finalists:

- **Natalie McGee**, Mt Lebanon Senior High School
 - *Project: Exploring sustainable methods of ocean surface agriculture*
- **Daniela Naumov**, Pittsburgh Allderdice High School
 - *Project: Impact of klotho methylation and sequence on TBI outcomes*
- **Andrew Ni and Amish Sethi**, Pine-Richland High School
 - *Project: Functional genetic biomarkers of Alzheimer’s disease and gene expression from peripheral blood*
- **Nicole Shigiltchoff**, Winchester Thurston School
 - *Project: Allorecognition in hydractinia symbiolongicarpus: Determining the loci of genes controlling allorecognition in addition to Alr1 and Alr2 using machine learning*
- **Annie Wang**, Aquinas Academy
 - *Project: A generalization of stars and bars for placing identical items into identical bins*
- **Victor Yang**, Fox Chapel Area High School
 - *Project: Intelligent device for eye disorder treatment*
- **Maxim Yaskolko**, Pittsburgh Allderdice High School
 - *Project: Exploring the modulatory effect of vascular normalizing agents on tumor cells: T cells and dendritic cells in vitro*

Rob and Diane Thompson Scholarship Award

This award, which grants each recipient a \$1,000 scholarship to the school of their choice (from the Robert M. Thompson, Jr and Diane V. Thompson funds at The Pittsburgh Foundation) was determined by the PRSEF judge advisory committee.

- **Bana AlMoussa**, Pittsburgh Science and Technology Academy
 - *Project: Analysis of men’s role in menstrual practices in far-west Nepal*
- **Emma Waldron**, Pittsburgh Allderdice High School
 - *Project: Pesticide effects on growth of an amphibian fungal pathogen*

College and University Scholarship Awards

In February, senior division (high school) PRSEF participants completed a survey indicating which schools they were interested in speaking to on the day of the Science Fair. When PRSEF was canceled, schools were sent research plans for each student who indicated interest in them. A total of 29 students were offered scholarship awards (together worth more than \$400,000) from six colleges/universities:

Carlow University

- **Regina Anand**, Saint John Paul II Homeschool Co-op
- **Josephine Toth**, Norwin High School

Gannon University

- **Regina Anand**, Saint John Paul II Homeschool Co-op
- **Kylea Beitzel**, Northern Garrett High School
- **Allison Edwards**, Oakland Catholic High School
- **James Ertter III**, Cambria Heights Senior High School
- **Margaret Hollobaugh**, Freeport Area Senior High School
- **Zackary Letso**, Cambria Heights Senior High School
- **Karen Mendoza**, Shady Side Academy Senior School
- **Alicia Minnick**, Northern Garrett High School
- **Hana Nazelrod**, Southern Garrett High School
- **Veronica Pimenova**, Seneca Valley High School
- **Brody Porter**, St. Joseph High School
- **Braden Thomas**, Cambria Heights Senior High School
- **Anker Zhao**, Shady Side Academy Senior High School

Indiana University of Pennsylvania

- **Ian Eckenrode**, Cambria Heights Senior High School
- **Zackary Letso**, Cambria Heights Senior High School
- **Marcus Waller**, Pittsburgh Science and Technology Academy
- **Grace Woolslayer**, Indiana Area Senior High School

Saint Vincent College

- **Cecilia Fidler**, Norwin High School
- **Brody Porter**, St. Joseph High School
- **Ethan Schoeder**, St. Joseph High School

Seton Hill University

- **Gabriella Mason**, St. Joseph High School
- **Hana Nazelrod**, Southern Garrett High School
- **Ethan Schroeder**, St. Joseph High School

University of Pittsburgh at Bradford

- **Abhirami Ajay**, North Allegheny Senior High School
- **Elaine Gombos**, Shady Side Academy Senior School
- **Shagufta Haque**, Indiana Area Senior High School
- **Kelly Tang**, North Allegheny Senior High School

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.

Accessibility: Features for All

Carnegie Science Center welcomes all visitors. We work to assist visitors with disabilities in obtaining reasonable and appropriate accommodations, and in supporting equal access to services, programs, and activities. We welcome visitors in wheelchairs on the deck of our USS Requin (SS 481) submarine. Below-deck visits require full mobility. Hearing assistance devices are available for The Rangos Giant Cinema. Please ask when you buy your ticket.

Please note that requests for accommodations should be made at least two weeks prior to your visit. For specific questions about wheelchairs, strollers, or other programmatic or equipment needs, see the ticket counter located on the first floor of the main building or contact Customer Service at 412.237.1641 or info@carnegiesciencecenter.org. Please contact Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh's Accessibility Coordinator with concerns regarding accessibility for visitors with disabilities at the museums. On weekdays, call 412.622.6578 or email accessibility@carnegiemuseums.org.

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 2018, the museums reached more than 1.4 million people through exhibitions, educational programs, outreach activities, and special events.

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