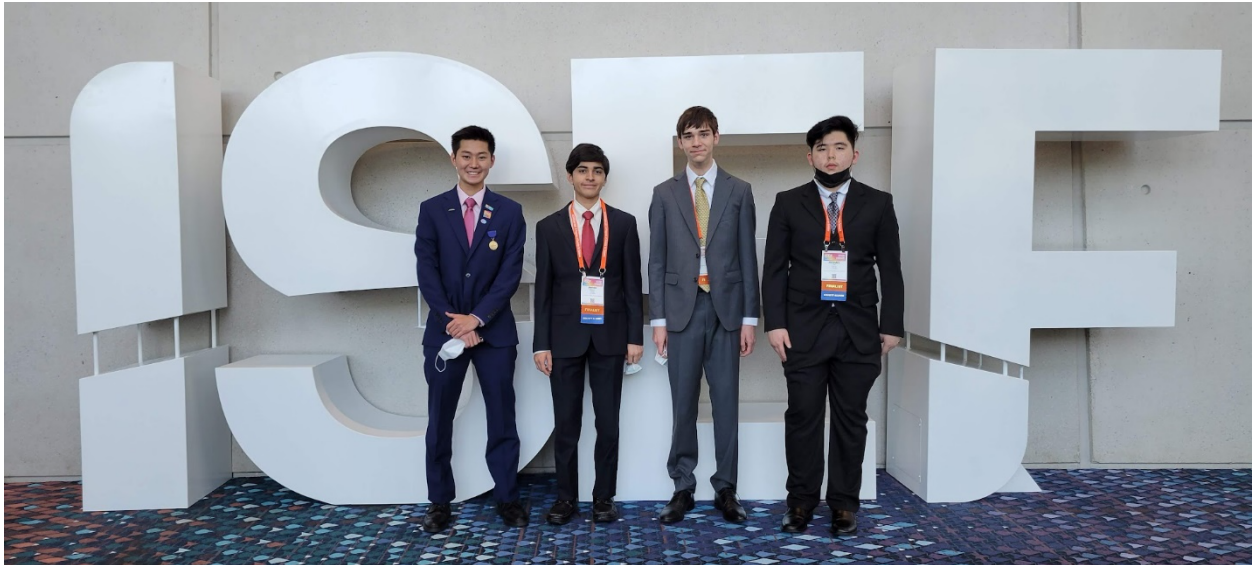




MEDIA ALERT | For Immediate Release
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FOUR LOCAL STUDENTS RECEIVE TOP AWARDS AT HIGHLY COMPETITIVE INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FAIR



High-res images available to [download here](#). (Left to right: Steven D. Liu, Arvind Seshan, Landon Colaresi, and Michael Zigi Gao)

PITTSBURGH, May 18, 2022 – After presenting award-winning projects during Carnegie Science Center’s Pittsburgh Regional Science & Engineering Fair on March 22 and 23, four students from Pittsburgh-area high schools were selected to represent the region at the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF), held May 8–13. Nearly 2,000 students representing 49 states and 63 countries across the globe competed in ISEF, which is the world’s largest international high school competition.

Three of the four finalists from the Pittsburgh area won grand awards in their category. The three ISEF winners from the Pittsburgh region are:

Steven D. Liu, Shady Side Academy Senior School – 2nd place in Chemistry

- Steven’s project, *Techno-Economic Assessment of a Cost and Quality-Based Algal Biodiesel Production Process*. At PRSEF, Steven placed second in the Senior Division Chemistry category.

Michael Zigi Gao, North Hills Senior High School – 3rd place in Cellular and Molecular Biology

- Michael's project, *Regulation of Autophagy by a Novel Autophagy - Related Gene*. At PRSEF, Michael placed first in the Senior Division Biology category.

Landon Colaresi, Pittsburgh Allerdice High School – 3rd place in Systems Software

- Landon's project, *Malware Detection with Graph Convolutional Networks*. At PRSEF, Landon placed first in the Senior Division Computer Science and Math category.

"We continue to be blown away by the high caliber of talent, creativity, and innovation represented at this year's Science Fair – especially our top four ISEF finalists," said Jason Brown, Henry Buhl, Jr., Director of Carnegie Science Center. "Part of our mission is to inspire students to use STEM skills to take on the challenges our society faces – and the students proved that they are more than capable of solving some of our world's biggest problems."

Additional special awards were handed out to Pittsburgh-area students:

Steven D. Liu, Shady Side Academy Senior School

- Received a special award from the Air Force Research Laboratory on behalf of the United States Air Force
- Received a special award from King Abdul-Aziz and his Companions Foundation for Giftedness and Creativity (Mawhiba)

Landon Colaresi, Pittsburgh Allerdice High School

- Received a special award from the National Security Agency Research Directorate

Arvind Seshan, Fox Chapel Area High School

- Received a special award from the National Security Agency Research Directorate

"These exceptionally talented Regeneron ISEF finalists are some of the brightest minds from around the world and our greatest hope for addressing global challenges in the future," said George D. Yancopoulos, MD, PhD, Co-Founder, President and Chief Scientific Officer of Regeneron. "Science is critical to the survival of our society, and these finalists have limitless potential to make a positive impact on the world. I congratulate them for their hard work and am eager to see what they achieve in their scientific journeys."

Regeneron ISEF provides a global stage for the best and brightest young scientists and engineers around the world. Founded on the belief that advances in science are key to solving global challenges, Regeneron ISEF supports and invests in the next generation of leading STEM thinkers who are generating ideas and acting as catalysts for the change needed to improve the well-being of all people and the planet.

Learn more at <https://www.societyforscience.org/isef/>.

About PRSEF

PRSEF has been a Pittsburgh tradition since 1940. It is the third oldest science fair in the United States under the affiliation of Society for Science & the Public, which runs the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) and the Broadcom MASTERS middle school competition.

About the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair

The Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair (Regeneron ISEF), a program of Society for Science for over 70 years, is the world's largest global science competition for high school. Through a global network of local, regional and national science fairs, millions of students are encouraged to explore their passion for scientific inquiry. Each spring, a group of these students is selected as finalists and offered the opportunity to compete for approximately U.S. \$8 million in awards and scholarships.

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

Founded by Andrew Carnegie in 1895, [Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh](http://www.carnegiemuseums.org) is a family of four dynamic, distinctive museums: Carnegie Museum of Art, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Carnegie Science Center, and The Andy Warhol Museum. The museums reach 1.5 million people a year through exhibitions, educational programs, outreach activities, and special events.

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