



MEDIA ALERT | For Immediate Release
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Indiana Area Students Earn Awards at Carnegie Science Center's 86th Annual Science Fair

Thanks to support from the Lucchino Science Inspiration Fund, underserved districts participated in STEM-based competition at Pittsburgh's most-visited museum

PITTSBURGH, June 24, 2025 – This spring, Carnegie Science Center welcomed 573 students from 74 middle and high schools for the 86th annual Pittsburgh Regional Science and Engineering Fair (PRSEF).

These students worked for months to prepare projects, conduct research, and present their findings, gaining deep insight into the scientific method and having the opportunity to demonstrate their work in front of over 300 professional judges.

Many of these students, including a total of 38 from Purchase Line Elementary School and Indiana Area Middle School, would not have participated in the Science Fair if not for the Lucchino Science Inspiration Fund.

Since 2019, the Lucchino Science Inspiration Fund has provided opportunities for students from underserved districts to access STEM-based educational opportunities. This year's efforts began a focus of deep and sustained impact through the Pittsburgh Regional Science and Engineering Fair, and the stories gathered from participants and educators show the impact of this approach.

"Our goal is to encourage students to participate in the Science Fair who wouldn't otherwise be able to do so," says Steve Kovac, associate museum director for Science & Engagement at the Science Center. "The kids that we're trying to reach might not have a mentor or role model to teach them about these opportunities. Through these efforts, we're trying to remove the gap between where students fall in terms of zip code or socio-economic status and their access to impactful science-based education."

The students' and teachers' hard work paid off, as two Indiana County student projects won awards. One group of Indiana Area students earned second place in the Consumer Science category for a project titled, "Which Cheesecake Baking Method is Best?" and three students from Purchase Line Elementary earned second place for their project focusing on the sweetness of different apple varieties.

Brady, a sixth grader from Indiana Area School District, was another student who participated in the Science Fair for the first time. Inspired by a family member who deals with acid reflux, Brady's project examined the acidity of various fruits – including lemons, limes, oranges, and grapefruit – to better learn what might help their diet. (Of note: eat more grapefruit and oranges, fewer lemons and limes.)

"I really liked it because it's about science and showing your mind to people, showing what you know," Brady says of his first Science Fair experience. "I really love chemistry, first of all, and some people have acid reflux problems, so they should know this information."

As part of its Strategic Plan, the Science Center has pledged to cultivate science education and enrichment that is both relevant and impactful. Because of the Lucchino Fund, Brady and several dozen other young scientists were the beneficiaries of a robust, months-long educational program that is often unavailable to students without additional financial or community resources.

"There are some incredibly bright students out there, and that's the great thing about the Science Fair – it taps their potential in a way that doesn't involve taking a test or the SATs," says Jason Brown, Henry Buhl Jr., Director of the Science Center. "This is a totally different way of uncovering students' brilliance. Our goal is to have a Science Fair that represents everyone, including all school districts throughout our region."

For more information about PRSEF or the Lucchino Science Inspiration Fund, please reach out to Steve Kovac, associate museum director for service & engagement, at 412.237.1614 or KovacS@CarnegieScienceCenter.Org.

For more information about educational opportunities at the Science Center, please visit CarnegieScienceCenter.Org.

Carnegie Science Center

Carnegie Science Center, soon to be the Daniel G. and Carole L. Kamin 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, the Science Center is Pittsburgh's premier science exploration destination and the region's most-visited museum, reaching more than 500,000 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

Founded by Andrew Carnegie in 1895, [Carnegie Museums](#) 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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