STEM Scholars Competed for Nearly $500,000 in Scholarships and Awards at State Science Day 2019

Columbus, Ohio – On Saturday, May 11th, 1,053 students in grades 5-12 exhibited their science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) projects at the 71st annual State Science Day. Hosted by The Ohio State University, State Science Day is a program of The Ohio Academy of Science. This year, STEM scholars from 332 schools throughout Ohio – competed for nearly $500,000 in scholarships and sponsored awards.

State Science Day is made possible by the support and sponsorship of The Ohio State University with the Office of Distance Education and eLearning coordinating the event locally. Title Sponsors include: AEP Foundation, Battelle, CAS, Charles River, Ethicon, The Ohio Environmental Education Fund, and The Ohio Tuition Trust Authority’s College Advantage 529 Plan.

“For 71 years, State Science Day has been supporting science education in Ohio by offering a program that encourages students to learn science by following their own curiosity and to experience learning through inquiry and technological design”, said Michael E. Woytek, Executive Director for The Ohio Academy of Science. “State Science Day is important because it provides an authentic opportunity for developing critical thinking and problem-solving skills”. Woytek added, “we are thankful for having such generous sponsors and the support of more than 1,000 science and engineering professionals that serve as judges and volunteers”.

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The students competing at State Science Day, advanced to the state-level competition from 17 District Science Days held in March.

Since 1949, local, district and State Science Day have comprised Ohio’s largest and most far reaching STEM education program with more the 75,000 students participating state-wide.

Several Ohio Departments and Centers fund awards at State Science Day. The Governor’s Thomas Edison Awards include, Excellence in Student Research in Advanced or Alternative Energy; Biotechnology and Biomedical Technologies; Environmental Sciences and Information Technology. Sponsors for the Governor’s Awards are the Ohio Development Services Agency (Technology Division), the Ohio Environmental Education Fund and several Edison Technology Centers.

The following twelve schools received the Harold C. Shaw Memorial Outstanding School Award:

- All Saints School – Cincinnati
- Bethel Junior High School – Tipp City
- Harding Middle School – Steubenville
- John Sells Middle School – Dublin
- LT Ball Intermediate – Tipp City
- Ottawa Hills Junior/Senior High School – Ottawa Hills
- Our Lady of Perpetual Help – Grove City
- St. Columban – Loveland
- St. Paul’s Catholic School – North Canton
- St. Rose School – New Lexington
- Terrace Park Elementary School – Terrace Park
- Walnut Hills High School - Cincinnati

The Ohio Tuition Trust Authority recognized 5th and 6th grade researchers by awarding The College Advantage 529 Plan Award to 12 deserving students. These awards totaled $12,500.

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Students were also recognized for competing multiple years at **State Science Day**. The following list of students were presented awards for this distinguished accomplishment:

**Seven-Year Awardee** – Joseph Kruse (Bloom-Carroll HS-Carroll)

**Six-Year Awardees** – Prathik Chakravarthy (Beavercreek HS-Beavercreek), Aurora Fares (Canfield HS-Canfield), Rohit Kataria (Wheelersburg HS-Wheelersburg), Cassidy Smith (Bloom-Carroll HS-Carroll), Leena Vyas (Tippecanoe HS-Tipp City), Kaylynn Yockey (East Richland Christian School-St. Clairsville)

**Five-Year Awardees** – Sudarshan Chakravarthy (Beavercreek HS-Beavercreek), Willow Kennedda (Williamsburg HS-Williamsburg), Emily Kruse (Bloom Carroll HS-Carroll), Alaina Metzler (Geneva HS-Geneva), Rayanne Mustapha (Bounty Collegium-Sylvania), Sundus Mustapha (Bounty Collegium-Sylvania), Rena Ouyang (Rutherford B. Hayes HS-Delaware), Mohini Parvate (Dublin Jerome HS-Dublin), Shruthi Ravichandran (Hathaway Brown School-Shaker Hts.), Elyse Reed (Ashland HS-Ashland), Lisa Sebastian (Bethel HS-Tipp City), Tim Stoffer (East Richland Christian School-St. Clairsville), Zoe Williams (Athens HS-Athens), Ian Wolfe (Bloom Carroll HS-Carroll)

**Four-Year Awardees** – Noor Abukaram (Bounty Collegium-Sylvania), Synene Abukaram (Bounty Collegium-Sylvania), Grant Arnold (Carroll HS-Dayton), Ryan Ballou (Carroll HS-Dayton), Olivia Bartlett (Carroll HS-Dayton), Liesl Carter (Archbishop Alter-Kettering), Emma Conners (East Richland Christian School-St. Clairsville), Dasha Crocker (Bellbrook HS-Bellbrook), Edward Dan (Solon HS-Solon), Samuel Dispenza (Athens HS-Athens), Grace Elhindi (Beaumont HS-Cleveland Hts.), Serena Kataria (Wheelersburg HS-Wheelersburg), Katherine Koontz (Northwestern HS-West Salem), Anna MacLennan (Anderson HS-Cincinnati), Shifra Narasimhan (Athens HS-Athens), Neeti Prasad (Dayton Regional STEM School-Dayton), Alaina Reed (Ashland HS-Ashland), Madeleine Sanders (Carroll HS-Dayton), Lohith Savardekar (Dublin Coffman HS-Dublin), Michael Scheeser (Hudson HS-Hudson)

For more information, including a complete roster of participating students and sponsored awards, please visit [www.ohiosci.org/ssp/](http://www.ohiosci.org/ssp/). For more information about **State Science Day**, call 614-389-2182 or email mwoytek@ohiosci.org.

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