News Release
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STEM Scholars Competed for Nearly $500,000 in Scholarships and Awards During an Online State Science Day 2020

Dublin, Ohio – For 72 years, State Science Day, a program of The Ohio Academy of Science, has been the pinnacle of academic achievement for students pursuing inquiry-based scientific research and engineering design. This year’s event was to have been held at The Ohio State University on Saturday, May 9, 2020, but was successfully converted to an online competition when it became apparent that a live, in-person event required a cancellation to comply with the State of Ohio’s health and safety mandates to combat the effects of COVID – 19.

This spring, 797 STEM scholars in grades 5-12 competed for nearly $500,000 in sponsored scholarships and awards. A total of 258 schools participated. State Science Day 2020 was sponsored by the American Electric Power Foundation, Battelle, CAS, Charles River, Kokosing, Inc., the Ohio EPA, The Ohio State University, and the Ohio Tuition Trust Authority’s College Advantage 529 Plan.

“Needless to say, this monumental effort was not only made possible because of the generous support of our sponsors, but the dedicated and hardworking volunteers and STEM leaders who comprise the OAS Junior Academy Council, which is directed by Dr. Martin English of Tipp City”, said Michael E. Woytek, Executive Director of The Ohio Academy of Science. Woytek added, “State Science Day has

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proven to be an authentic learning experience that provides students with an opportunity to apply what they’re being taught and teaches them how solve real world problems.”

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 fourteen schools received the Harold C. Shaw Memorial Outstanding School Award*:

- Bishop Leibold E & W Campus – Dayton
- Carroll HS – Dayton
- Hathaway Brown – Shaker Hts
- Hicksville HS – Hicksville
- Hilltop HS – West Unity
- Lincoln HS – Gahanna
- Mason Middle School – Mason
- Ottawa Hills Junior/Senior HS – Ottawa Hills
- Rutherford B Hayes HS – Delaware
- St. Columban – Loveland
- St. Mary Immaculate Conception – Wooster
- Sylvania Southview HS – Sylvania
- Toledo Islamic Academy – Sylvania
- Upper Arlington HS – Upper Arlington
- Warsaw Elementary School – Warsaw

*The Harold C. Shaw Memorial Outstanding School Award is recognized as the highest possible school and team achievement at State Science Day.

The Ohio Tuition Trust Authority recognized 5th and 6th grade researchers by awarding The College Advantage 529 Plan Award to 14 deserving students. These awards totaled $14,500.

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

**Seven Year Awardees** – Aurora Fares (Canfield HS-Canfield), Rohit Kataria (Wheelersburg HS-Wheelersburg), Cassidy Smith (Bloom-Carroll HS-Carroll)

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

**Five Year Awardees** – Noor Abukaram (The Bounty Collegium-Sylvania), Synene Maria Abukaram (The Bounty Collegium-Sylvania), Emma Conners (East Richland Christian Schools-St. Clairsville), Dasha Crocker (Bellbrook HS-Bellbrook), Serena Kataria (Wheelersburg HS-Wheelersburg), Alaina Reed (Ashland HS-Ashland), Lohith Savardekar (Dublin Coffman HS-Dublin), Michael Scheeser (Hudson HS-Hudson)

**Four Year Awardees** – Laalitya Acharya (William Mason HS-Mason), Kevin Agnew (Carroll HS-Dayton), Ainsley Beckler (Fayetteville-Perry Middle School-Fayetteville), Adeline Butler (Big Walnut MS-Sunbury), Charley Clyne (Zane Trace MS-Chillicothe), Nicholas Cribbet (National Inventors Hall of Fame School-Akron), Caroline Denny (Alliance HS-Alliance), Cassie Eckert (Archbishop Alter HS-Kettering), Dawson Forbush (Chesapeake HS-Chesapeake), Samantha Geiger (Columbia MS-Columbia Station), Carsyn Hagans (Archbold HS-Archbold), Alina Handte (East Richland Christian Schools-St. Clairsville), Adam Khan (Stanton MS-Kent), Grace Kruse (Bloom-Carroll HS-Carroll), Umayna Magsi (Toledo Islamic Academy-Sylvania), Jake McCarthy (Athens HS-Athens), Anas Mereb (Sunrise Academy-Hilliard), Sanchita Paranthaman (Williams Mason HS-Mason), Emily Plageman (Bloom Carroll-Carroll), Arvind Prasad (Sycamore HS-Cincinnati), Julie Sebastian (Bethel MS-Tipp City), John Shin (Hawken School-Chesterland), Emily
Swope (Bloom Carroll HS- Carroll), Adriane Thompson (The Wellington School-Columbus), Mihir Vador (Dublin Jerome HS-Dublin), Wyatt Vick (Zane Trace MS-Chillicothe), Viviana Wheeler (Notre Dame HS-Portsmouth), Ash Williams (Greenville HS-Greenville)

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