STEM Scholars honored by Lt. Governor Jon Husted and Director, Lydia Mihalik (Ohio Development Services Agency) on Tuesday, July 14, 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 scheduled at The Ohio State University on Saturday, May 9, 2020, but was successfully converted to an online competition this spring 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.

Drawing from a base of nearly 10,000 students, 797 STEM scholars in grades 5-12 advanced their projects to the State Science Day, where they competed for nearly $500,000 in sponsored scholarships and awards. A total of 258 schools participated.

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, Advanced Materials, and Information Science & Technology Research. Funding support for the Governor’s Awards is made by the Ohio Development Services Agency (Technology Division)
In a virtual ceremony held on July 14, 2020, **Lt. Governor Jon Husted** and **Director, Lydia Mihalik** (Ohio Development Services Agency) honored State Science Day and recognized each of the 28 students who received the Governor’s Thomas Edison Award.

The event can be found here: [https://youtu.be/_m-yi064AJk](https://youtu.be/_m-yi064AJk)

“I am inspired by the 28 STEM scholars who received this prestigious award,” said **Lt. Governor Jon Husted**. “State Science Day is a great opportunity for young Ohioans to engage with professional scientists and engineers, learn and build the skills needed to compete in today’s tech-infused economy and gain hands-on experience that will set them up for future success.”

“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, “It’s thrilling to have Lt. Governor Husted and Director Mihalik validate the importance of State Science Day and the research contributions made by these students.”
Governor’s Thomas Edison Awards for Excellence – List of Awardees

Grades 10-12

Information Science & Technology Research

1st Award – Jaden Thomas – 11th Grade – Bloom Carroll HS, Carroll
2nd Award – Yaryna Kurdoba – 10th Grade – Beaumont School, Cleveland Hts.
3rd Award – Kai Delsing – 11th Grade – Bellbrook HS, Bellbrook
4th Award – Aniv Ray – 12th Grade – Columbus Academy, Gahanna

Advanced Materials

1st Award – Destynn Keuchel – 10th Grade – Hawken School, Gates Mills
2nd Award – Synene Abukaram – 12th Grade – The Bounty Collegium, Sylvania
3rd Award – Landon Muhlenkamp – 11th Grade – Greenville HS, Greenville
4th Award – Laney King – 10th Grade – Akron St. Vincent St. Mary, Akron

Advanced or Alternative Energy

1st Award – Ethan Elking, 11th Grade - Miamisburg HS, Miamisburg
2nd Award – Michael Scheezer, 11th Grade – Hudson HS, Hudson
3rd Award – Dylan Seigle, 11th Grade – Anna HS, Anna
4th Award – Cassidy Smith, 12th Grade – Bloom Carroll HS, Carroll

Biotechnology & Biomedical Technologies

1st Award – Mohini Parvate, 11th Grade – Dublin Jerome HS, Dublin
2nd Award – Julia Bray, 12th Grade – Gahanna Lincoln HS, Gahanna
3rd Award – Taylor Kauffmann, 12th Grade - Anna HS, Anna
4th Award – Sophia Carter, 11th Grade – Carroll HS, Dayton

-More-
Grades 7-9

Information Science & Technology Research

1st Award – Laasya Acharya – 7th Grade, Mason Middle School, Mason
2nd Award – Emily Carr – 7th Grade, John Sells MS, Dublin
3rd Award – Joshua Cox – Buckeye Valley Local MS, Delaware

Advanced Materials

1st Award – John Shin – 9th Grade, Hawken School, Gates Mills
2nd Award – Sarah Burns – 8th Grade, Sacred Heart of Jesus, Wadsworth
3rd Award – Alora Siegel – 8th Grade, Hilltop HS, West Unity

Advanced or Alternative Energy

1st Award – Anas Mereb, 8th Grade, Sunrise Academy, Hilliard
2nd Award – Kaitlyn Ernst, 8th Grade, Laurel School, Shaker Hts.
3rd Award – Alexander Krol, 8th Grade, Walnut Hills HS, Cincinnati

Biotechnology & Biomedical Technologies

1st Award – Madeline Cole, 9th Grade, Liberty Union HS, Baltimore
2nd Award – John Shin, 9th Grade, Hawken School, Gates Mills
3rd Award – Annelise Depenbrock, 7th Grade, St. Michael

For more information, including a complete roster of participating students and sponsored awards, please visit www.ohiosci.org/ssd/. For more information about The Ohio Academy of Science, please visit www.ohiosci.org, or email mwoytek@ohiosci.org.