

Fauquier County Public Schools

News Release



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REGIONAL SCIENCE & ENGINEERING FAIR SENIOR DIVISION WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Four Mountain Vista Governor's School (MVGS) students took top honors and cash prizes at the Fourth Annual Fauquier Regional Science & Engineering Fair, senior division (9th-12th grades), on Saturday, March 11, at Fauquier High School. The fair drew 21 high school competitors from Fauquier County Public Schools and one private school, Wakefield. Keynote speaker was Dr. David Jeck, division superintendent of Fauquier County Public Schools. This year the fair was coordinated by a new director, FCPS biology teacher Chandra Wilkemeyer, who assumed the position this past summer. For the first time the senior division fair was held separately from the junior division fair (sixth-eighth graders), which will be held on Saturday, April 29.

Winners of the senior division fair were as follows.

- **1st place:** Heather Wotton, MVGS 11th grader, \$500 prize for "The Effect of the Removal of Mass on the Calculated Efficiency of Structural Beams." As the top senior division prize winner, Wotton will receive an all-expenses-paid trip to compete at the [Intel International Science & Engineering Fair](#) in Los Angeles, CA, May 14-19.
- **2nd place:** Kameron Mize, MVGS 12th grader, \$350 prize for "Efficacy of Artificial Neural Networks in Detecting Network Threats Through Heuristic Analysis"
- **3rd place:** Bailey Wilson, MVGS 11th grader, \$200 prize for "Analysis of Self-Promotion on Instagram"
- **Honorable Mention:** Clay Shafer, MVGS 11th grader, \$150 prize for "Effect of Distraction on Driver Reaction Time"



Heather Wotton, first-place winner of this year's Fauquier Regional Science & Engineering Fair, is pictured with Pam Pulver, instructional supervisor for science and health/physical education, and Dr. David Jeck, division superintendent.

Other State Qualifying Winners

In addition to the four top winners in the senior division, seven other projects were selected to advance to the [Virginia State Science & Engineering Fair](#) competition at VMI in Lexington, VA, on March 25. They are as follows.

- "Strength of Vertically Oriented Glulam Beams Compared to Solid Full Timber Beams" by Kimberly McAninch, MVGS 12th grader
- "Effects of Ice Type and Temperature on Figure Skating Ice" by Molly Cesanek, Wakefield School 10th grader
- "Nitrate Variation within Rural Settings" by Caragh Heverly, MVGS 11th grader
- "The Effect of Sodium Chloride Concentration on Brassica oleracea var. Sabellica Growth in a Floating Hydroponic Garden" by Ellyse Sutcliffe, MVGS 12th grader
- "Dairy Me Fa So La Ti Do?" by Zita Ribeiro, Fauquier High School 9th grader
- "Save the Bees! Insulating Hives to Protect Our Pollinators" by Connor Culbertson, MVGS 11th grader
- "Effect of Oxybenzone on the Luminosity of Pyrocystis fusiformis" by Caroline Duckworth, MVGS 12th grader

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Private donors and community businesses provided sponsorships starting at \$150 per student to cover the registration costs of the Virginia State Science & Engineering Fair (VSSEF), travel, lodging and meals for these 11 students who will compete at VSSEF with over 250 high school students throughout the Commonwealth. Core sponsors providing cash prizes for this year's regional fair were Learning Tree Farms, Linda and John Suter, and the Patricia and David Vos Foundation.



Pam Pulver, instructional supervisor, left, and Dr. David Jeck, division superintendent, right, are pictured with students whose projects qualified to advance to the Virginia State Science & Engineering Fair: back row, l-r, Conner Culbertson, Caragh Heverly (partially hidden), Ellyse Sutcliffe, Kameron Mize, Heather Wotton and Kimberly McAninch, and front row, l-r, Bailey Wilson, Clay Shafer, Zita Ribeiro and Molly Cesanek.

In addition to the science and engineering fair winners, a number of other awards were presented; project names are listed here only if they were not previously listed above:

American Meteorological Society Award – Ethan Schmidt, MVGS 12th grader, “The Effects of Color on Asphalt Temperature”

American Psychological Association Award – Caitlyn Roy, MVGS 11th grader, “Income and Standardized Math Test Scores in Virginia”

ASM Materials Education Foundation Award – Molly Cesanek

Association of Women Geoscientists Award – Caragh Heverly

Intel Excellence Computer Science Award – Kameron Mize

Mu Alpha Theta National Mathematics Honor Society Award – James McAvoy, MVGS 12th grader, “A March Madness Algorithm”

NASA Earth System Science Award – Caragh Heverly

NOAA Taking the Pulse of the Planet Award – Ethan Schmidt

Ricoh Sustainable Development Award – Caroline Duckworth

U.S. Air Force Award – Matthew Zieg, Kettle Run High School 9th grader, “Lift Factor: How the Shape of a Propeller Changes the Lift Generated”

U.S. Air Force Award – Kameron Mize

U.S. Air Force Award – Heather Wotton

U.S. Office of Naval Research Naval Science Award – Kameron Mize

U.S. Office of Naval Research Naval Science Award – Kimberly McAninch

U.S. Stockholm Junior Water Prize – Caragh Heverly

U.S. Stockholm Junior Water Prize – Blair Houska, MVGS 12th grader, “The Effect of De-Icing Salts on Fescue Grass Seed Germination”

Virginia Dental Association Regional Grand Prize – Amy Lee, 11th grader, Liberty High School, “Contamination Nation: The Effectiveness of Cleaning Agents on Bacteria Growth”

Virginia Lakes and Watersheds Association Award – Blair Houska

Yale Science and Engineering Association, Inc. Award – Kameron Mize