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MEDIA ALERT

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PITTSBURGH REGIONAL SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FAIR ANNOUNCES WINNERS

***FOUR LOCAL STUDENTS ADVANCE TO INTERNATIONAL
SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FAIR IN LOS ANGELES***

PITTSBURGH — More than 1,000 students from more than 100 schools throughout the region competed in the 72nd annual Pittsburgh Regional Science and Engineering Fair (PRSEF), which has been sponsored by Carnegie Science Center since 1940. Awards totaled \$1 million in cash and scholarships, and winners were announced at a ceremony at Heinz Field on Saturday, April 2.

Four students were selected to represent the region at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) to be held May 8–13 in Los Angeles. These young scientists, whose projects were chosen from a pool of 315 senior division entries, are: Adam Dando from Franklin Regional High School (Murrysville), for “Nitrite Retention Chemistry”; Natalie Nash, from Vincentian Academy (McCandless), for “Optimal Keyboard for the Disabled”; Matthew Vernacchia, from Upper St. Clair High School, for “Iris Scribe Eye Typing Interface”; and Ishan Chatterjee, from Fox Chapel Senior High School, for “Effect of NAT3 on Autophagy in HCT116 Cancer Cell Line.”

ISEF brings together more than 1,200 students from 48 states and 40 nations to compete for scholarships, tuition grants, internships, scientific field trips, and the grand prize: a trip to attend the Nobel Prize Ceremonies in Stockholm. Pittsburgh has been chosen to host ISEF in 2012, 2015, and 2018. Carnegie Science Center was recently presented with an award from Visit Pittsburgh for helping to bring ISEF here. This event will provide a unique opportunity for Pittsburghers to interact with top young science researchers and innovators from around the globe. Pittsburgh was selected due to our rich traditions as a leader in science and technology.

2010 Pittsburgh Regional Science and Engineering Fair First Place Category Award Winners:

Junior (grade 6)

Physical Science — Mihir Garimella, Dorseyville Middle School, Fox Chapel, Pa.

Life Science — Mary Anand, Anand Home School

Consumer Science — Darwin Leuba, Dorseyville Middle School, Fox Chapel, Pa.

TEAM — Victoria Clarchick and Alex Pompe, Avella Elementary School

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Intermediate (grades 7–8)

Behavioral and Social Science — Anna Henkels, St. Thomas More School, Mt. Lebanon, Pa.
Biology — Marissa Golgosky, Ambridge Area Junior High
Chemistry — Xeres Libsch, Sacred Heart Elementary School, Shadyside
Computer Science/Math — John Sigg, Gateway Middle School, Monroeville, Pa.
Consumer Science — Rachel Szabo, Dorseyville Middle School, Fox Chapel, Pa.
Earth/Space/Environment — Elizabeth Watson, St. Mary of the Assumption, Glenshaw, Pa.
Engineering/Robotics — Katherine Scherer, Windmill Hill Home School, New Brighton, Pa.
Medicine/Health/Microbiology — Rishi Mirchandani, Dorseyville Middle School, Fox Chapel, Pa.
Physics — Thomas Nash, Providence Heights Alpha, Allison Park, Pa.
TEAM — Aidan Hoffman, Walker Orner, and Tristan Smith, Quiet Creek School of Country Living, Brookville, Pa.

Senior (grades 9–12)

Behavioral and Social Science — Ashley Johnson, Cambria Heights High School, Patton, Pa.
Biology — Kelly Doyle, Knoch High School, Saxonburg, Pa.
Chemistry — Adam Dando, Franklin Regional High School, Murrysville, Pa.
Computer Science/Math — Natalie Nash, Vincentian Academy, McCandless, Pa.
Earth/Space/Environment — Robert Gorog, Freeport Senior High School
Engineering/Robotics — Megan Rosenberger, St. Joseph High School, Natrona Heights, Pa.
Medicine/Health/Microbiology — Chareeni Kurukulasuriya, Taylor Allderdice High School, Squirrel Hill
Physics — Michelle Lee, North Allegheny High School, Wexford, Pa.

First place category award winners' projects will be on display in Carnegie Science Center through Sunday, April 10.

About the Pittsburgh Regional Science and Engineering Fair

The Pittsburgh Regional Science and Engineering Fair, a Pittsburgh tradition since 1940, is the third oldest fair in the country under the affiliation of Science Services, Inc., which facilitates the International Science and Engineering Fair. The Science Fair is a program of Carnegie Science Center's Regional SciTech Initiative, promoting a scientifically and technologically literate workforce and a knowledgeable, inspired public. For information, visit PittsburghScienceFair.org.

About the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair

The [Intel International Science and Engineering Fair](http://IntelInternationalScienceandEngineeringFair.org) (ISEF) is held annually in May and brings together more than 1,500 students from 50 states and 50 nations to compete for more than \$4 million in scholarships, tuition grants, internships, scientific field trips, and the grand prize—a trip to attend the Nobel Prize Ceremonies in Stockholm, Sweden.

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About Carnegie Science Center

Carnegie 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 of Pittsburgh, the Science Center is Pittsburgh's premier science exploration destination, reaching more than 700,000 people annually through its hands-on exhibits, camps, classes and off-site education programs.

About Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh

Founded by Andrew Carnegie in 1895, Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh is a collection of four distinctive museums dedicated to exploration through art and science: Carnegie Museum of Art, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Carnegie Science Center, and The Andy Warhol Museum. In 2009, the museums reached more than 1.2 million people through exhibitions, educational programs, outreach activities, and special events.

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