



75th Greater Kansas City Science & Engineering Fair Award Results

ACADEMIC AWARDS

Each Academic Award Winning project receives an acrylic award and a cash prize, split between students when it is a team project. First place will receive \$100, second place \$75, and third place \$50.

TOP GKCSEF AWARDS

The **GRAND AWARDS** are presented to the top **four** senior division from the Pioneers in Science that also meet the stringent requirements for entering the REGENERON International Science and Engineering Fair and will represent Kansas City as ISEF Finalists. Grand Award winners and their sponsoring teacher will receive an all-expense paid trip to compete at the 2026 International Science & Engineering Fair, held this year in Phoenix, Arizona, May 10th -15th.

SPONSORED BY:

Black & Veatch • BlueScope • Broadcom Foundation • Catalent • DeBruce Foundation • KCNSC Managed by Honeywell • Kiewit

GRAND AWARD WINNERS & ISEF FINALISTS:

Sumayya Mohamed, Gopikaashri Chidambaranathan, Emma Rogers, Stavan Majumdar

The **PIONEERS IN SCIENCE** awards are given to the top seven Senior Division Blue Ribbon winning projects across all categories.

School: Basehor-Linwood High

Category: Earth and Environmental Sciences (EA)

Name: Emma Rogers

Title of Project: Analyzing the Effects of Sublethal Glyphosate as a Potential Stressor on Two Crayfish Species

School: Islamic School of Kansas City

Category: Physics and Astronomy

Name: Sumayya Mohamed

Title of Project: SpectroAge: A Novel Attention-Based Neural Network for High-Precision Stellar Age Prediction Using Asteroseismic Spectra

School: Blue Valley West

Category: Physics and Astronomy

Name: Ananya Agrawal

Title of Project: A Two-Phase Machine Learning Pipeline for Robust Gravitational Wave Signal Validation

School: Center for Academic Achievement

Category: Molecular Bio/Chem & Health Sciences

Name: Hailey Poague

Title of Project: Role of NKG2D in NOD Mouse Type One Diabetes

School: Pembroke High School

Category: Computer Systems, Electronics, Robotics

Name: Nathan Zhao

Title of Project: Design and Development of an IoT Network for Contactless Vital Sign Health Monitoring and Fall Detection

School: Washburn Rural High School

Category: Computational Science, Bioinformatics and Mathematics

Name: Gopikaashri Chidambaranathan

Title of Project: In Silico Modeling of Bispecific Dual-Affinity Re-Targeting (DART) Molecules Targeting PD-1 and LAG-3 for Solid Tumor and Hematologic Cancers Immunotherapy

School: Blue Valley Northwest High School

Category: Computational Science, Bioinformatics & Math

Name: Stavan Majumdar

Title of Project: Convergence of Phenotypic and Neurological Subtype Classification of ASD

ACADEMIC CATEGORY AWARDS

SENIOR DIVISION

SENIOR ANIMAL SCIENCE, SPONSORED BY: BioNexus KC

2nd: Isabella Welsh

1st: Kira Yancey

SENIOR BEHAVIORAL & SOCIAL SCIENCE, SPONSORED BY: Campbell Family Foundation

3rd: Dominic Marroquin

2nd: Gabriel Mozingo

1st: Izabella Heffley

1st: Adit Reddy

SENIOR CHEMISTRY, SPONSORED BY: MRIGlobal

3rd: Iusuf Akiiuz

2nd: Katherine Busenitz

1st: Rachel Davis

SENIOR COMPUTATIONAL SCIENCE, BIOINFORMATICS & MATHEMATICS, SPONSORED BY: Kansas City University

2nd: Stavan Majumdar

1st: Gopikaashri Chidambaranathan

SENIOR COMPUTER SYSTEMS, ELECTRONICS, AND ROBOTICS, SPONSORED BY: Ford Motor Company

2nd: Jemma MacNeill

1st: Nathan Zhao

SENIOR EARTH & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE, SPONSORED BY: Terracon

3rd: Katie Trease

2nd: Jaslyn Bankston and Nayeli Cruz Alvarenga

1st: Emma Rogers

1st: Anya Reddy

SENIOR ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING, SPONSORED BY: Panasonic Energy

3rd: Dhruv Mogenahalli

2nd: Colleen Schroeber

1st: Jolyne Le

SENIOR ENGINEERING MECHANICS, SPONSORED BY: Greater Navy League of KC

3rd: Daisy Guzman and Samantha Ramon Garcia

2nd: Jacob Stuckey

1st: Olivia Curzon

SENIOR MICROBIOLOGY, SPONSORED BY: Eurofins Viracor

3rd: Heidi Paz Ruiz

2nd: Arshika Kanna

1st: Joshua Kirkland

SENIOR MOLECULAR BIOLOGY/CHEMISTRY & HEALTH SCIENCES, SPONSORED BY: Labconco

3rd: Hailey Poague

3rd: Emily Duckwitz

2nd: Elizabeth Barnes

2nd: Prisha Dalal

1st: Aditi Roy

1st: Grace Pei

SENIOR MATERIAL SCIENCE, SPONSORED BY: HNTB

2nd: Mariah Young

1st: Alyssa Boyd and Leteli Moreno

SENIOR PHYSICS & ASTRONOMY, SPONSORED BY: Regnier Family Foundation

2nd: Camryn Barnes

1st: Sumayya Mohamed

SENIOR PLANT SCIENCE, SPONSORED BY: Bayer

3rd: Alice Heisel

2nd: Valorie Hayward

1st: Katherine Medina

JUNIOR DIVISION

JUNIOR ANIMAL SCIENCE, SPONSORED BY: BioNexus KC

3rd: Zachary Carletti

2nd: Leila Yap

1st: Quinn Willis

JUNIOR BEHAVIORAL & SOCIAL SCIENCE, SPONSORED BY: Campbell Family Foundation

3rd: Ariel Lott

3rd: Lucas DeLoux

2nd: Corrie Couch

2nd: Keira Lynam

1st: Kenzie Campbell, Fira Collins, Violet Holt

1st: Nayla Balderrama, Brooklyn Crawford, and Jonathan Portales

JUNIOR CHEMICAL ENERGY, SPONSORED BY: Evergy

1st: Kinley Wade

JUNIOR CHEMISTRY, SPONSORED BY: MRIGlobal

3rd: Rosalie Will

3rd: Charlie Beatty

3rd: Cameron Kirby

2nd: Kathleen Okken

2nd: Charles Judy

2nd: Logan Spitz

1st: Lincoln Fuller

1st: Everett Barrack

1st: Mia Schmitt

JUNIOR Computational Science, Bioinformatics, & Math, SPONSORED BY: Kansas City University

2nd: Courtland Talley

1st: Naba Syed

JUNIOR Computer Systems, Electronics, Robotics, SPONSORED BY: Ford Motor Company

2nd: Nell Johnson

1st: Harley Carlburg

JUNIOR EARTH & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES, SPONSORED BY: Terracon

3rd: David Harmon

2nd: Eloise Thompson and Siobhan Davis

1st: Vihaan Asthana

JUNIOR ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING, SPONSORED BY: Panasonic Energy

2nd: Vidhi Mishra

1st: Harper Shaw

JUNIOR ENGINEERING MECHANICS, SPONSORED BY: Greater Navy League of KC

3rd: Benjamin Bogart

2nd: Angelica Mayen-Flores

1st: Evan Parkes and Andrea Rasquinha

1st: Thea Gheen

JUNIOR MICROBIOLOGY, SPONSORED BY: Eurofins Viracor

3rd: Emlyn Keeler

2nd: Violet Wolff

2nd: Stella Reckelhoff

1st: Donnie Lin, Graham Jacobs, and Keaton Lovitt

1st: Katie Barnes

JUNIOR MOLECULAR BIOLOGY/CHEMISTRY & HEALTH SCIENCES, SPONSORED BY: Labconco

2nd: Hibba Qadir

1st: Eleanor Schweitzer

JUNIOR MATERIAL SCIENCE, SPONSORED BY: HNTB

3rd: Gracie Hewes

2nd: Royce Zahner

2nd: Sage Murdock

1st: Abigail Haar

1st: Sophie Normille

JUNIOR INVENTIONS, SPONSORED BY: Shook, Hardy, and Bacon

3rd: Jack Biegelson

2nd: Elizabeth Combs

1st: Abe Holmes

JUNIOR PHYSICS & ASTRONOMY, SPONSORED BY: Regnier Family Foundation

3rd: Henry White

2nd: Taylor Curboy

1st: Izza Waqar

JUNIOR PLANT SCIENCE, SPONSORED BY: Bayer

3rd: Daiva Wright

2nd: Diego Reynoso, Lex Mendez, and Moidelyn Raygoza

1st: Noa Emery

1st: Jenna Hazelton

INTERMEDIATE DIVISION

INTERMEDIATE ANIMAL SCIENCE, SPONSORED BY: BioNexus KC

1st: Graham Demke

INTERMEDIATE BEHAVIORAL & SOCIAL SCIENCES, SPONSORED BY: Campbell Family Foundation

2nd: Addison Voss

1st: Nora Frick

INTERMEDIATE CHEMICAL ENERGY, SPONSORED BY: Evergy

1st: Lillian Humphreys

INTERMEDIATE CHEMISTRY, SPONSORED BY: MRIGlobal

3rd: Ava Spriggs

2nd: Lainey Lovell

1st: Anna Reznikova

INTERMEDIATE COMPUTATIONAL SCIENCE, BIOINFORMATICS, AND MATH, SPONSORED BY: Kansas City Universit

1st: Elizabeth Kennedy and Lillian Kennedy

INTERMEDIATE Computer Systems, Electronics, Robotics, Sponsored by: Ford Motor Company

1st: Maxwell Desai and Nathan Hua

INTERMEDIATE EARTH & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES, SPONSORED BY: Terracon

2nd: Reece Crocker

1st: Elena Rafiee

INTERMEDIATE ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING, SPONSORED BY: Panasonic Energy

1st: Gwyneth Noland

INTERMEDIATE ENGINEERING MECHANICS, SPONSORED BY: Greater Navy League of KC

2nd: Jett O'Connell

1st: Hunter Martin and Shea Smith

INTERMEDIATE MICROBIOLOGY, SPONSORED BY: Eurofins Viracor

2nd: Heidi Simon, Samantha Powers, and Sydney Rocco

1st: Audrey Posladek, Grace Hartong and Idgie Lamb

INTERMEDIATE Molecular Bio/Chem & Health Sciences, SPONSORED BY: Labconco

1st: Colin Thurman and Mike Bell

INTERMEDIATE MATERIALS SCIENCE, SPONSORED BY: HNTB

2nd: Brody Dabbs

1st: Apollo Beasley

INTERMEDIATE INVENTIONS, SPONSORED BY: Shook, Hardy, and Bacon

2nd: Mira Mandloi

1st: Hunter Thompson

INTERMEDIATE PHYSICS & ASTRONOMY, SPONSORED BY: Regnier Family Foundation

2nd: Spencer Puppe and Ahaan Sharan

1st: Sophia Garcia

INTERMEDIATE PLANT SCIENCE, SPONSORED BY: Bayer

3rd: Joseph Wheeler

2nd: Edith Puls

1st: Phineas Dobbs

EDUCATOR AWARDS

This year two sponsors have provided educator grants of \$1,000 each to provide financial support for student projects, transportation and an educator stipend. **This year's recipients:**

Eran Reem, PhD., Head of Science, Hyman Brand Hebrew Academy, the Campbell Family Foundation Grant

Patrick Poetter, Holy Trinity Catholic School-Paola, the Campbell Family Foundation Grant

Olena Novobranova, Notre Dame de Sion, Black & Veatch Grant

Our Grand Teacher Award is the Marie Miller Educator Award. She believed in the importance of teachers. This goes to a teacher that reflects their commitment to research and contributing to the community through science education. This award is \$3,000 cash prize. This year's winner is **Rachel Cerra, 8th Grade Science Research class at Kearney Junior High.** Rachel Cerra has taught for twenty years with the first ten teaching 7th and 8th grade science, biology, and advanced biology at West Platte before moving to Kearney and teaching 8th grade Science Research, PLTW-Principles of Biomedical Science, Medical Detectives, and Automation and Robotics. This year marks her 16th year sponsoring students in the Greater Kansas City Science & Engineering Fair. She has also coached dance teams as well as assisting with her high school's FRC Robotics team. Rachel was nominated by her peers and selected from a pool of 14 nominees.

SPECIAL AWARDS

Both national and local STEM organizations with a devoted interest in science education provide special awards for projects entered into the Fair. Each organization selects its own award criteria and provides judges to select the winning projects. This year there are 55 organizations providing 177 awards with a total value of over \$43,000!

GRAND Special Awards

MRIGlobal's Excellence in Science Award recognizes excellence and progress, and it's awarded to the project judged to be the very best from the Senior Division. In this winner and their work, we see many of the qualities exemplified that we at MRIGlobal pride ourselves on. The winner receives a trophy, \$1,000 and a summer internship at MRIGlobal.

Dr. James L. Spigarelli Award for Chemistry – Dr. James L. Spigarelli Award for Chemistry – Recognizing the most outstanding Senior Division chemistry project for excellence, innovation, and real-world impact. This award honors Dr. Spigarelli, a Kansas-born scientist whose work in chemical demilitarization helped eliminate over 95% of the world's chemical weapons—demonstrating the power of chemistry to change the world. Winning student receives an trophy and \$500.

Local & National Special Awards

Air and Waste Management Association Award: This award is given to the best projects in the senior, junior and intermediate division relating to 1) generation, control, effect, or illustration of air pollution or waste management or 2) relating to energy conservation or renewable energy. Each winner will receive a \$100 cash award and a plaque. Additionally, the science department of each winner's school will receive \$50.

Senior winner: Emma Rogers, Basehor-Linwood High School

Junior winner: Vidhi Mishra

Intermediate winner: Shakti Patel

American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) - KC Section Award: This organization presents \$100 to the student in the senior or junior division whose project best exemplifies practical application of chemical engineering principles.

Winner: Kinley Wade

American Psychological Association Award: A certificate and an APA membership is presented to one project showing outstanding research in any category related to psychology.

Winner: Madelyn Gardner

Anita B. Gorman Conservation in Action Award: The Missouri Department of Conservation is proud to award the best project in the intermediate, junior, and senior divisions relating to natural resources, including but not limited to fish, forest, or wildlife conservation; human influence, or connections to nature. Each project will receive a \$150 cash award and a plaque. Additionally, the science teacher will receive \$100.

Senior winners: Jaslyn Bankston and Nayeli Cruz Alvarenga

Junior winners: Syuri Hernandez and Alexia Ortiz

Intermediate winner: Elena Rafiee

Association for Women Geoscientists Award: The Association for Women Geoscientists is pleased to provide an Award Certificate and honorary AWG membership to the female student whose project exemplifies high standards of innovation and scientific excellence in the geosciences.

Winner: Eloise Thompson & Siobhan Davis

Astronomical Society of Kansas City Award: The Astronomical Society of KC is honored to provide an award for one astronomy or space-themed project per age division. The award will include a certificate, a one-year membership in ASKC, and one evening of curated viewing with the 30-inch telescope at Powell Observatory in Louisburg, Kansas.

Senior: Sumayya Mohamed

Junior: Taylor Curboy

Intermediate: Gwyneth Noland

Automatic Systems, Inc. Innovation Award for Mechanical Engineering: Automatic Systems Inc. (a conveyor manufacturing company) is honored to offer 3 individual awards to the Senior Division for best projects related to mechanical engineering. Each winner will receive a \$50 amazon gift card.

Winners: Sofia Luna, Olivia Curzon, and Eeshwar Mithun

Broadcom Coding with Commitment Award: The Broadcom Coding with Commitment Award is intended to encourage

greater inclusivity in science fairs by recognizing a participant in 5th through 8th grade who applies basic coding or computational thinking to solve a problem the student or student team cares about. Each winner will receive a \$250 gift card, public recognition at Broadcom Foundation-sponsored competitions and showcases, a formal award certificate from the Broadcom Foundation, and a Raspberry Pi Pico Kit.

Winners: Naba Syed

Burroughs Audubon Society of Greater Kansas City Award: Awarded to the best project in the junior, intermediate and senior division in relating to avian species, native North American flora, fauna or natural communities or ecosystems. Each winner will receive \$100 and a trophy and the science department of each school will receive \$100.

Senior winner: Emma Rogers, Basehor-Linwood High School

Junior: Quinn Willis

Intermediate: Elena Rafiee

Children's Mercy Research Institute Award: The Children's Mercy Research Institute Award will recognize one project each in the intermediate, junior, and senior divisions that demonstrates exemplary insight related to improving the health and wellbeing of children everywhere by answering the toughest healthcare questions affecting children and their families. One award consisting of a certificate, \$50 gift card, Children's Mercy sweatshirt, and tour of the Children's Mercy Research Institute for the winners and their immediate families will be gifted to the project winners.

Senior: Phinehas Nagy

Junior: Benjamin Snodgrass and Silas Rienke

Intermediate: Mira Mandloi

Citadel Securities Innovation Prize: The Citadel Securities Innovation Prize of \$100 will be awarded to a 6th-8th grade student and a 9th-12th grade student project that best displays an impressive command of Citadel's core values including ingenuity or innovative problem solving and accurate data collection and statistical analysis.

Senior: Prisha Dalal

Junior: Zakariyya Mohamed, Islamic School of Greater Kansas City

Citizens' Climate Lobby, Kansas City Chapters Award: Citizen's Climate Lobby is proud to award 7 student projects that cover any facet of the Mid-American Regional Council's Regional Climate Action Plan and were judged on scientific merit, contribution to overall greenhouse gas reduction, suitability for the Kansas City region, and aesthetic appeal. All 3 winners receive \$150 each.

Senior: Ethan Derr

Junior: Angelica Mayen-Flores

Intermediate: Graciela Gonzales

Code Ninjas Leawood Girls in STEAM Works! Award: This award is for girls who show creativity, passion, and promise in basic coding and computational thinking. The winner will receive a framed certificate, swag bag, and \$100 gift certificate to use toward Code Ninjas Leawood programming.

Winner: Sumaya Adam

Code Ninjas Leawood STEAM Works! Award: This award is for anyone in 3rd-5th grade who shows critical thinking, creativity, problem solving, and passion in their coding project. Winner will receive a framed certificate, swag bag, and \$50 gift certificate to use toward Code Ninjas Leawood programming.

Winner: Evan Blazek

Director's Choice Award: Recognizing the creativity and innovation in the merging of art and science, this award celebrates projects that demonstrate integration of artistic expression, captivating presentation, and scientific inquiry. One winning project from each division will receive a \$50 cash prize and one runner-up in each division will receive a \$25 cash prize. All winners will receive a certificate and Science City tickets.

Senior winner: Macaulay Ayala

Senior runner-up: Brayan Salgado Castillo

Junior winner: Gracelyn Clyde

Junior runner-ups: Kara Johnson and Miyah Hightower

Intermediate winner: Brennan Lynch

Intermediate runner-up: Penelope Peterson

EPA Region 7's Excellence in Environmental Science Award: EPA Region 7 is honored to award a certificate to what they deem 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place projects in Environmental Science in each age division.

1st Place Senior: Jaslyn Bankston and Nayelli Cruz Alvarenga

2nd Place Senior: Joylne Le

3rd Place Senior: Anya Reddy

Honorable Mention Senior: Faith Sandberg

1st Place Junior: Vihaan Asthana

2nd Place Junior: Katie Barnes

3rd Place Junior: Lily Lucero

Honorable Mention Junior: Zakariyya Mohamed

1st Place Intermediate: Reece Crocker

2nd Place Intermediate: Elena Rafiee

3rd Place Intermediate: Oliver Bazaan

Honorable Mention Intermediate: Shakti Patel

The Bernie Haas Memorial Award for Innovation goes to Natalie Meyer, Senior Division

Dr. F. Gene Hampton Award: Awarded to a promising high school student whose project best exemplifies the use of scientific processes in addressing a biological problem. The student and the sponsoring teacher will each receive an award of \$100.

Winner: Katie Barnes

Genius Olympiad Exceptional Genius Award: The Genius Olympiad Exceptional Genius Award is awarded in honor of a project that displays excellent work on environment. This award grants the recipient a priority to participate in GENIUS Olympiad 2026 in Rochester New York.

Winners: Evelyn Kelley, Sofia Nunez, Vihaan Asthana, Elise Odegaard, Olivia Noland, and Anya Reddy

George L. MacCurdy Award: Awarded to a high school student whose project best exemplifies the use of scientific processes in addressing a chemical problem. The student and the sponsoring teacher will each receive an award of \$100.

Winner: Jaylee Carlson

Greater Kansas City Association of Family and Consumer Sciences Award: Four \$50 awards are given to students whose projects emphasize and highlight our purposes, which are to educate individuals for family living, improve services and goods used by families, and promote research on the changing needs of individuals and families.

Junior: Margaret Heap

Junior: Lily Williams

Intermediate: Mira Mandloi

Intermediate: Ava Spriggs

Institute of Electrical & Electronic Engineers Award: IEEE is the world's largest professional association advancing innovation and technological excellence for the benefit of humanity. The IEEE KC award is given to one outstanding senior division project making use of the fields of electrical engineering, computer science, or mathematics.

Winner: Ananya Agrawal

Kansas City Archaeological Society Award: A \$50 cash award is presented for outstanding research in the area of archaeology, the study of past human life. One award will be given for the best experiment in tool manufacture or use, pottery making, native agricultural practices or additional topics related to archaeology.

Winner: Sofia Garcia

Kansas City Garden Club Award: Horticulture, environment and ecology related entries are eligible for this award. \$25 cash prize and a certificate will be awarded to the top 2 winning entries in each division.

Senior: Valorie Hayward

Senior: Martha Xiloj Torres

Junior: Reese Boyd, Emma Owen, and Miku Meyer

Junior: Blake Hufford

Intermediate: Aria Muhammad and Tina Hammoud

Intermediate: Graham Kauzlarich

KC RiBS Award: The Kansas City Researchers in Biomedical Science (KC RiBS) is honored to present their Special Award to what is deemed to be the top 2 individual senior division projects in the categories of molecular bio/chem or microbiology. Each winner will receive \$50, KC RiBS swag, and a certificate of achievement.

Senior: Kate Coffland

Senior: Rachel Davis

KC Zoo and Aquarium Biodiversity Defender Award: Awarded to the top three individuals who present a project that makes a positive contribution to an area's biodiversity by changing, enhancing, or monitoring environmental factors. One winning project in each division will receive a plaque, KC Zoo and Aquarium tickets, Conservation Lecture Series Tickets, and animal painting magnet.

Senior: Anya Reddy

Junior: Naba Syed

Intermediate: Elena Rafiee

KC Zoo and Aquarium Conservation Cultivators Award: This award honors a team whose project has shown exceptional leadership and commitment to environmental conservation efforts through innovation in their school and community. The winning project will receive a plaque, KC Zoo and Aquarium tickets, Conservation Lecture Series Tickets, and animal painting magnet.

Winner: Jaslyn Bankston and Nayeli Cruz Alvarenga

KU Alumni Junior Jayhawk STEM Award: KU Alumni and the KU Alumni Kansas City Network Board are proud to recognize two teams in the Junior Division and two teams in the Senior Division for their ambition, talent, and determination to pioneer innovation in the fields of engineering and computer science. In celebration of their achievement, each winning team will receive a KU gift package, a personalized tour of the Jayhawk Welcome Center on the University of Kansas campus, and an invitation for team members and their guardians to attend a KU Football tailgate this fall.

Junior: Evan Parkes and Andrea Rasquinha

Junior: Erick Dimas, Freddy Benitez, and Josue Martinez

KU Alumni Rock Chalk Jayhawk STEM Award: KU Alumni and the KU Alumni Kansas City Network Board are proud to recognize two teams in the Junior Division and two teams in the Senior Division for their ambition, talent, and determination to pioneer innovation in the fields of engineering and computer science. In celebration of their achievement, each winning team will receive a KU gift package, a personalized tour of the Jayhawk Welcome Center on the University of Kansas campus, and an invitation for team members and their guardians to attend a KU Football tailgate this fall.

Senior: Daisy Guzman and Samanta Ramon Garcia

Senior: Nathan Zhao

Lakeside Nature Center Award: Awarded to the best project in each division showing 'what kids can do' to help the environment. Each student and their teacher will receive \$100.

Senior: Jaslyn Bankston and Nayeli Cruz Alvarenga

Junior: Naba Syed

Intermediate: Shakti Patel

Lance Corporal Charles M. Stevens III, USMC Award: In memory of LCpl Charles Stevens III the Greater Kansas City Council of the Navy League will award two outstanding projects, one in the Senior division and one in the Junior division that reflect great vision, creativity, and practical application in the Engineering Mechanics category. Winners in each division receive a cash prize of \$350. Team winners will receive \$700, to be divided equally among the team, and a certificate of achievement.

Senior: Olivia Curzon

Junior: Angelica Mayen-Flores

Lemelson Early Inventor Prize: The Lemelson Early Inventor Prize is awarded to a student in the intermediate division who develops an invention to solve a critical societal problem and improve the lives of others. The winner receives \$100 and a certificate.

Winner: Elise Garrison

Linda Hall Library of Science, Engineering & Technology – Joseph C. Shipman Award: The Shipman Award is presented in memory of the library's first director, Joseph C. Shipman. To honor Mr. Shipman's legacy of devotion to science, this award is granted to the senior division student who makes excellent use of scientific literature in the context of a science fair project. The winning student and their sponsoring teacher each receive \$500

Winners: Madhava Bhadriraju and Neil Joshi

Martin N. Schuler Award: The Martin N. Schuler award recognizes Mr. Schuler's outstanding commitment to research professionalism, and his contributions to the community through his long-term involvement with Science Pioneers and the Science Fair as their past president and secretary-treasurer. This cash award of \$250 and a certificate will be presented to a student in the senior division for outstanding achievement in the biological sciences.

Winner: Nusaiba Awil

Missouri Organic Recycling/Stan Slaughter Award for Excellence in Organic Research: This award honors 1 project from either the senior or junior division relating to mimicking nature's processes to create quality organic products from organic waste materials and to increase diversion of organic waste from landfills. The winning student and their teacher will receive \$100 each.

Winner: Sami Yousafi

Missouri S&T's Environmental Science Program Award: Missouri S&T's Environmental Science program offers a world class interdisciplinary education in today's most relevant environmental issues and an opportunity to innovate to create environmental solutions. One project from the senior division will be awarded a \$250 scholarship to Missouri University of Science & Technology to study environmental science, a certificate, and a swag bag.

Winners: Mariah Young

Missouri S&T's STEM Education Program Award: The Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla is awarding summer program scholarships for up to \$1500 each to 5 JR and SR division projects. If teams are awarded, each student will receive a \$1500 scholarship each.

Seniors: Alyssa Boyd and Leteli Moreno

Senior: Rachel Davis

Senior: Camryn Barnes

Senior: Anya Reddy

Senior: Katherine Chang

The MOST 529 Awards: \$529 awards in the form of 529 savings account, are awarded to individual projects to 3rd-5th grade Missouri students.

Winners: Firas Hamid, Aspen Guggenmos, Elise Garrison, and Brennan Lynch

NASA Earth Systems Science Award: The NASA Earth Systems Science Award certificate is given to the student that best demonstrates insight into Earth's interconnected spheres and the project should incorporate studies including different spheres of the Earth system, their interactions and change over time.

Winner: Luke Johnson

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Award: A Certificate and invitation to a webinar is presented to one project in the junior or senior division whose research emphasizes NOAA's mission of Science, Service, and Stewardship: "to understand and predict changes in climate, weather, oceans and coasts, to share that knowledge and information with others, and to conserve and manage coastal and marine ecosystems and resources."

Winner: Evelyn Kelley

Northwest Missouri State Geospatial Technology Award: The School of Humanities and Social Sciences at Northwest Missouri State University will award a student who submits the best project using geospatial mapping technologies such as geographical information systems (GIS), global positioning systems (GPS), and/or remote sensing technologies such as satellite imagery, aerial photography, or drone (UAV) imagery to study spatial patterns on the Earth's surface. The winner of this award will receive a \$250 visa gift card award and a personalized certificate.

Winners: Emron Streetman

Northwest Missouri State Environmental Impact Award: The School of Humanities and Social Sciences at Northwest Missouri State University will extend this award to the best project on any topic related to the impact that humans have on the environment. The winner of this award will receive a \$150 visa gift card and a personalized certificate.

Winners: Vihaan Asthana

Office of Naval Research/United States Navy & Marine Corps Science Award: The Office of Naval Research is proud to present 3 senior division winners with a certificate, a medallion, and a \$50 gift certificate, while any other division will receive a certificate and medallion.

Senior: Katie Trease
Senior: Olivia Noland
Junior: Taylor Curboy

Photo 51 Award: The Photo 51 Award honors 2 outstanding student research projects centered on DNA. This \$51 prize commemorates Rosalind Franklin's Photo 51 and recognizes work that advances our understanding of genetics and molecular biology. Students also receive an acrylic award.

Senior: Emily Duckwitz
Senior: Wenqian Wang

Regeneron Biomedical Science Award: Society for Science is proud to partner with Regeneron to inspire and celebrate the next generation of biomedical scientific heroes with a \$375 award and certificate of achievement.

Winner: Gopikaashri Chidambaranathan

Ricoh Corporation Award: Awarded to the student whose outstanding project addresses social and environmental challenges and a meaningful solution for a more sustainable future. The winner will receive the Ricoh Sustainable Development Award Certificate, and a tree planted in their honor.

Winner: Maryama Awil

Science Coach Top Researcher Award: Provided to the highest scoring high school and middle school projects completed by Science Coach students. Winners receive a certificate, medallion, and a \$50 cash prize.

Senior: Rachel Davis
Junior: Katie Barnes

Science Coach Academy Award: An \$800 scholarship to attend the Science Coach Academy, June 22-25, 2026 is awarded to the teacher of the best non-Science Coach student project. Includes all conference fees, room and board.

High School Teacher: Shelly Day
Middle School Teacher: Kaitlyn Stoll

Science City Ad Astra Award: The Science City Ad Astra Award certificate is presented to a student in each division with projects relating to physics and astronomy that: showcase a great understanding of the scientific method, use applicable and recent research methods, and strive to use physics and/or astronomy-based sciences to help improve our world for future generations. The winner receives tickets to the Arvin Gottleib Planetarium and Science City.

Senior: Dushyanth Arjun
Junior: Henry Villanueva
Intermediate: Hadley Snell

Science City Maker Award: In recognition of your creative project, 1 project from each division will receive a 4-pack of Science City tickets and a custom-made Maker Studio award.

Senior: Sami Yousafi
Junior: Thea Gheen
Intermediate: Arianna Riedesel and Ashton Sevedge

Science City Showcase Award: The Science City Showcase Award recognizes 3 outstanding projects in each division based on the scientific inquiry, and project display board. Winners receive a Science Fair swag bag and 4 passes to Science City and the Planetarium.

Senior: Kate Carletti
Junior: Brooklyn Gonzalez
Intermediate: Bryant Gormly

Science Pioneers Legacy Award: This intermediate special award is for a project that showcases scientific learning, creativity, and curiosity. The Fair began in 1952 to help promote student interest in the sciences, and the Science Pioneers legacy continues as participation in the Fair grows. The winner will receive a 1-year Union Station membership along with a Fair T-shirt and lapel pin.

Winner: Lydia Knoll

Society for In Vitro Biology Award: Description of Award: This certificate is awarded to the most outstanding 11th grade student exhibiting in the areas of plant or animal in vitro biology or tissue culture.

Winner: Alejandra Ceron Madrigal

Society of Women Engineers - Kansas City Section Award: Society of Women Engineers is an organization that provides valuable opportunities for women in science and engineering to network, find support and develop their careers. The Kansas City section works to achieve the society's goals by reaching out to girls of all ages and encouraging them to pursue careers in STEM. 3 female senior division projects will each be recognized with \$50.

Senior: Sami Yousafi

Senior: Natali Gomes

Senior: Eymi Lopez Guardado

Stockholm Junior Water Prize: Awarded to the top 3 projects relating to, but not limited to, enhancing the quality of life through improvement of water quality, water resource management, or water and wastewater treatment on a local/national/global level. Regional winners receive a certificate and membership to WEF and are entered to move on in the Stockholm Junior Water Prize competition.

Senior: Alice Heisel

Senior: Jolyne Le

Senior: Katie Trease

Society of American Military Engineers- The Greater Kansas City Post Award: This award recognizes up to three juniors or seniors for outstanding engineering, applied science, or technology projects. In alignment with SAME's mission to support national security, infrastructure, and public service, projects are evaluated for analytical thinking, creativity, technical rigor, and real-world problem-solving in fields such as civil, environmental, mechanical, electrical, or systems engineering. Recipients will receive \$500 each.

Senior: Jacob Stucky

Senior: Jolyne Le

Senior: Eeshwar Mithon

Thermo Fisher Scientific Junior Innovators Challenge Nomination: Thermo Fisher Scientific Junior Innovators Challenge is the nation's premier STEM research competition for 6th, 7th and 8th grade students. The top 10% of students competing here today have the honor of continuing their science fair journey by applying to compete in the Thermo Fisher Junior Innovators Challenge.

Winners:

Violet Holt

Fira Collins

Kenzie Campbell

Nayla Balderrama

Brooklyn Crawford

Jonathan Portales

Kinley Wade

Everett Barrack

Mia Schmitt

Lincoln Fuller

Naba Syed

Harley Carlburg

Harper Shaw

Evan Parkes

Andrea Rasquinha

Donnie Lin

Graham Jacobs

Keaton Lovitt

Eleanor Schweitzer

Abigail Haar

Izza Waqar

Noa Emery

Jenna Hazelton

UMKC "Future Frontiers" Innovator Award: Presented to a student whose project demonstrates bold, forward-thinking innovation in emerging technologies (e.g., Data Science, AI, Advanced Materials, or Bioengineering). The award recognizes creativity and the courage to explore uncharted scientific territory, rewarding the "high-risk, high reward" mindset essential for breakthrough discovery.

Winners: Evan Parkes and Andrea Rasquinha

UMKC "Kansas City Student Changemaker" Award: Presented to the student project that best demonstrates the power of translational research—moving science out of the lab and into the real world. This award recognizes a student who has identified a tangible problem affecting the Kansas City region and used research to propose a viable, impactful solution.

Winner: Katherine Busenitz

UMKC "Young Scholar" Interdisciplinary Award: Awarded to a project that successfully bridges two or more STEM disciplines (e.g., using computer science to solve a biological problem, or engineering to address an environmental issue).

This award recognizes the ability to think across boundaries and demonstrates the power of convergence research to tackle complex questions.

Winner: Jolyne Le

The United States Air Force Award: The Air Force is honored to present four equal awards in 2025. Each student prize will include a sling pack, Power Bank, USB Flash Memory Drive, USB Car Charger, and Official Air Force Certificate.

Intermediate: Hunter Martin and Shea Smith

Junior: Tommy Curry

Junior: Jesse Hindsley

United States Metric Association Award: A certificate is awarded to the best senior level student whose project involves significant amount of quantitative measurement, and which best uses the SI metric system for those measurements.

Winner: Dakary Marin Alba

Urban West 4-H Environmental Innovation Award: The Urban West 4-H Environmental Innovation Award recognizes outstanding student innovation in environmental science. Projects should demonstrate creative scientific problem-solving with clear real-world application or impact related to environmental challenges or systems.

Senior Winner: Alyssa Boyd and Leteli Moreno

Senior 2nd: Genesis Alegria Herrera and Karla Gutierrez Campos

Senior 3rd: Kenneth Arteaga-Lopez

Junior Winner: Vihaan Asthana

Junior 2nd: Leila Yap

Junior 3rd: Vidhi Mishra

WeCode KC "Master of Bots" Award: WeCode KC is proud to award one project from any division a certificate and swag bag for excellence in robotics.

Senior: Nathan Zhao

WeCode KC "Code Genius" Award: WeCode KC is proud to award one project from any division certificate and swag bag to the best overall coding project.

Senior: Nell Johnson

WeCode KC "Math Magician" Award: WeCode KC is proud to award one project from any division a certificate and swag bag for best use of math in coding.

Senior: Stavan Majumdar

Western Chapter of the Missouri Society of Professional Engineers Award: The Western Chapter of the Missouri Society of Professional Engineers presents its awards to individual projects that exhibit the application of outstanding engineering creativity, design and analysis. Through these awards, they desire to encourage and support students who will make up the next generation of professional engineers. Each winner will receive \$50 and a certificate.

Senior: Olivia Curzon

Junior: Vihaan Asthana

Junior: Vidhi Mishra

Intermediate: Ayden Millard

Wildwood Outdoor Education Center Best Bio-Inspired Design Project Award: One project from intermediate and junior divisions is chosen based on how well the project utilizes inspiration from nature to solve a science or engineering problem. The winner receives 1 free week of summer camp or a birthday party at camp, and a Wildwood certificate.

Junior: Thea Gheen

Intermediate: Shakti Patel

The Yale Science & Engineering Association, Inc. Award: The Yale Science & Engineering Association, Inc. provides an award to the most outstanding project exhibiting in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

Winner: Phinehas Nagy