

MA Science & Engineering Fair 2022 Winners Announced

NEWS RELEASE

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The 2022 Massachusetts Science & Engineering Fair (MSEF) is complete! Each year hundreds of Massachusetts high school and middle school students participate in this competition. The Fair was held virtually and students had the opportunity to earn awards and prizes valued at \$400,000+.

The High School State Fair live, virtual judging was held on May 5th and 6th. The top scoring project this year is a team – **Parth Kocheta and Rohan Bandaru – of Lexington High School**, for their Computer Science project *Deep Learning for Visual Odometry*. They won the Sanofi Specialty Care Grand Prize, which not only recognizes the student, but also supports the student’s research ecosystem, recognizing the school as well. The 2nd highest scoring project this year was by a Newton resident **Fenghuan (Linda) He**—of the **Commonwealth School**, for her Mathematics project *A Topological Centrality Measure for Directed Networks*. She won the MathWorks Prize.

The Middle School State Fair with recorded student presentations was judged from May 18th to 20th. The Cabot Grand Prize winner is **Maura Richardson of Joseph Case Junior High School** in Swansea, for her project *What Color of Lights Do Plants Grow Under Best?*. The Cabot Grand Prize Runner Up award went to **Eric Nie of North Attleboro Middle School** for his project *Self-Driving Security Robot with Face Recognition*.

The full list of awardees can be found at www.scifair.com.

“For a second year that presented students with challenge upon challenge to their education, their commitment to the science fair process and their independent research was truly incredible,” says Helen Rosenfeld, Executive Director of MSEF. “I’m impressed with the ingenuity and talent of participating students.” The students represented 73 Massachusetts public and private high schools and 50 public and private Middle Schools. They exhibited the “best of the best” of research and innovation projects from across the Commonwealth.

Through independent research and design projects, students learn through doing and discovery, a process that enables them to think like scientists and engineers, using real-world professional practices. Students express appreciation for being able to pursue projects that interest them, work through challenges and follow through on a project from start to finish.

At the State Fair, students presented their research, completed throughout the year, and were assessed by volunteer judges, STEM professionals from industry and academia, who reviewed each presentation. High School participants had the opportunity to discuss the research and design work with the volunteers via video conference. Winning projects are eligible for monetary awards, patent awards, college scholarships, research internships and other prizes. Major prizes were generously provided by Sanofi Specialty Care, MathWorks, Eversource, Cabot, and Fish & Richardson, along with many other science and technology based corporations and professional organizations.



Massachusetts Science
+ Engineering Fair

955 Massachusetts Ave, #350
Cambridge MA 02139
617.491.1500
info@scifair.com

For the first year, two teachers are recognized with the MSEF Teacher Award. This award, sponsored by Sanofi Specialty Care, is presented to one High School and one Middle School teacher who supported independent student STEM learning through participation in the Science & Engineering Fair. Nominations were reviewed for evidence of ingenuity, dedication, student support and resilience – regardless of the size of the program or duration of their Science Fair participation. The recipient of the High School award is **Christine Garabedian** from **Southeastern Regional Technical Vocational High School**. The recipient of the Middle School award is **Sarah Kazmi** of **Al-Noor Academy in Mansfield**.

About Massachusetts Science & Engineering Fair

MSEF inspires thousands of children annually to realize a passion for STEM learning as they develop essential life and career skills through independent research. MSEF's vision is a future where every student is empowered through learning in science & engineering practices. As one of the nation's first STEM education providers and now a national model, MSEF is proud to offer its program at no cost to children or schools. MSEF helps hundreds of STEM teachers to bring 'real-world' science & engineering practices into their classrooms.

For questions, please contact Helen Rosenfeld, Executive Director at hrosenfeld@scifair.com. For additional information please visit www.scifair.com.