



NEWS RELEASE

Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering

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***Celebrate, Promote, Inform in
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 24, 2021

CASE to Honor Connecticut's Top Student Scientists

East Hartford, CT - Connecticut's most talented young scientists and engineers will be honored by the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering (CASE) at its 46th Annual Meeting, to be held virtually on Thursday, May 27, 2021, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm. Students from this year's Connecticut Science & Engineering Fair, Connecticut Junior Science and Humanities Symposium, and Connecticut Invention Convention received CASE awards and will be recognized as part of the meeting.

The H. Joseph Gerber Medal of Excellence and Award of Excellence, established by CASE, will be awarded to the top winners of the Connecticut Science & Engineering Fair, and the fair's Urban School Challenge Program. The awards were created to recognize and honor H. Joseph Gerber's (1924-1996) technical leadership in inventing, developing and commercializing manufacturing automation systems for a wide variety of industries, making those industries more efficient and cost-effective in a worldwide competitive environment.

This year's keynote address will be delivered by CASE Member Radenka Maric, Vice President for Research, Innovation and Entrepreneurship from the University of Connecticut. Additionally, thirty-two newly elected 2021 members of the Academy will be recognized at the event, along with the thirty-six members elected in 2020. And the state of Connecticut's Honorable Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz will participate in the ceremony to bestow Sikorsky, a Lockheed Martin Company, with the 2020 Connecticut Medal of Technology and Nancy H. Ruddle, John Rodman Paul Professor Emerita, Epidemiology of Microbial Diseases and Immunobiology, Yale School of Public Health and Yale School of Medicine, with the 2021 Connecticut Medal of Science. To register to attend: <https://registration.caseannualmeeting.org/>

Student winners to be honored are:

The 2021 H. Joseph Gerber Medal of Excellence

Ambika Grover, Greenwich High School, Greenwich, CT

2021 Connecticut Science & Engineering Fair – 1st Place, Life Sciences–Senior Division; *Project: Rapid, Noninvasive, Fluorescence–Based Detection for Elevated Levels of Nitric Oxide in Exhaled Breath, As a Marker for Hazardous PM2.5 Exposure*

Autumn Kim, Greenwich High School, Greenwich, CT

2021 Connecticut Science & Engineering Fair – 1st Place, Physical Sciences–Senior Division; *Project: Design of a Fe3O4/Bentonite/Graphite Coated Polyurethane Sponge for Economical and Eco–Friendly Oil Spill Recovery*

2021 H. Joseph Gerber Award of Excellence

Clayton Nyiri, Bridgeport Regional Aquaculture Center, Bridgeport, CT

2021 Connecticut Science & Engineering Fair – Urban School Challenge High School Winner; *Project: The Social Interactions and Learning Abilities Between Dogfish, Observed Using Two Different Methods of Target Training*

2021 Connecticut Science & Engineering Fair – Middle School Winner, Urban School Challenge

Snigtha Mohanraj, Engineering and Science University Magnet School,

West Haven, CT; *Project: Implementation of Metal–Oxide–Induced Agglomeration and Electromagnetic Filtration for Removal of Microplastics*

2021 Connecticut Junior Science and Humanities Symposium

1ST Place: Ambika Grover, Greenwich High School, Greenwich, CT; *Project: Rapid, Noninvasive, Fluorescence–Based Detection for Elevated Levels of Nitric Oxide in Exhaled Breath, As a Marker for Hazardous PM2.5 Exposure*

2ND Place: Alexa Nakanishi, Greenwich High School, Greenwich, CT; *Project: Multi Component Fixation Tracking in Gaze Interaction for Rapid, Non–Invasive Diagnosis of Specific Learning Disorders*

3RD Place: Kenneth Choi, Ridgefield High School, Ridgefield, CT; *Project: Constructing General Hamiltonian Ground States on a Quantum Computer Using the Projected Cooling Sensor Algorithm*

4TH Place: William Bernfeld, King School, Stamford, CT; *Project: Non–Canonical Base Pairing in Self–Assembling DNA Crystals*

5TH Place: Sofia Pronina, Greenwich High School, Greenwich, CT; *Project: Rapid, Low–Cost, Visual Lyme Disease Diagnosis via Lab–on–Chip, Chemiluminescent Detection of Borrelia–Induced Antibodies*

2021 Connecticut Invention Convention CASE Awardees

- Emily Leszczynsk, Ashford School
- Gretchen Kelly, Stafford Middle School
- Jason Merchant, Southbury Family Tutorial Co–op
- Jeneika Lugg, Jumoke Academy
- Jordan Collie, East Granby Middle School

- Julia Basseto, Assumption Catholic School
- Lora Piper, Lisbon Central School
- Nilan Kathir, St. Bridget School
- Olivia Orthmann, Putnam Middle School
- Ravindu Karunaratne, Hamden Hall Country Day School
- Samuel Brittin, Southbury Family Tutorial Co-op
- Sia Reddy, Talcott Mountain Academy of Science, Mathematics and Technology
- Snigtha, Mohanraj, Engineering and Science University Magnet School
- Suchita Srinivasan, Dodd Middle School
- Vaughn Coombs, Tolland Middle School

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The Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering was chartered by the General Assembly in 1976 to provide expert guidance on science and technology to the people and to the state of Connecticut, and to promote the application of science and technology to human welfare and economic well being. For more information about the Academy, please see www.ctcase.org.

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