

GEARSEF 2023 Awards Ceremony (Junior Division)

SPECIAL AWARD RECOGNITIONS

The Following Awards are Sponsored by the AUM College of Science

AUM Biology Award for Creative Application of Biological Principles

This award recognizes students that exemplify excellence in the creative application of biological principles through research in biology related categories. The winner will receive a \$50 cash prize and a certificate.

The winner is: J-100-01 Devin Flowers

AUM Department of Chemistry

This award recognizes high achievement in scientific research in the field of chemistry. The winner will receive a certificate and a \$50 cash award.

The winner is: J-400-09 Avery Steensland

AUM Environmental Science and GIS Award

This award recognizes creative expression of mastering the concepts of environmental science and/or GIS. The winner will receive a certificate and \$50 cash award.

The winner is: J-700-07 Andrew Valeri

AUM Physics Award for Ingenuity and Inventiveness

Physical principles underlie all of science. This award is given in recognition of an individual who demonstrated an understanding of the laws of physics and how to use them to interpret and understand the world around us. The winner will receive a certificate and \$50 cash award.

The winner is: J-500-02 Abby Skinner

AUM Engineering Award

This award will be given to project in any category that demonstrates an innovative application of math or science to a challenge of our society. The winner will receive a certificate and a \$50 cash award.

The winner is: J-1100-02 Jaida Fitzpatrick and Aalyah Godwin

AUM Women in Sciences and Mathematics Achievement Award

This award recognizes high achievement in scientific research by a female. The winner of this award will receive a \$50 cash award and a certificate.

The winner is: J-700-02 Jessica Shu

AUM Spirit of Excellence

This award recognizes any student for any category considered an underrepresented minority in STEM or persons with disabilities. The winner will receive a certificate and a \$50 cash award.

The winner is: J-100-01 Devin Flowers

AUM Future Scientist Award

The award will be given to the student, in any category, who demonstrated a complete, thorough and current understanding of a scientific topic during their interview. As such, this student shows great promise as a future researcher. The winner will receive a certificate and a \$50 cash award.

The winner is: J-600-08 Roxanne Hardy

Innovation of Robotic Systems Award

This award will recognize a project from any category that demonstrates the greatest promise for innovation in the use of robotic systems. The winner will receive a certificate and a \$50 cash award.

The winner is: J-1100-02 Jaida Fitzpatrick and Aaliyah Godwin

Talent in Mathematics and Statistics Award

This award will recognize a project, from any category, that demonstrated strong mathematical and statistical analysis. The winner will receive a certificate and \$50 cash award.

The winner is: J-600-09 Asher Beddingfeild

The following awards have external sponsors.

Association for Women Geoscientists Award

Sponsored by: Association of Women Geoscientists

This award recognizes female students whose projects, in the opinion of the judges, exemplify high standards of innovativeness and scientific excellence in the geosciences.

The winner is: J-700-012 Minlu Wan-He and Ayoung Jeong

Lemelson Early Inventor Prize

Sponsored by: Lemelson Foundation

This award will recognize a young inventor creating a promising solution to real-world problems. The winner will receive a certificate and a \$100 cash award.

The winner is: J-700-012 Minlu Wan-He and Ayoung Jeong

Naval Science Award

Sponsored by: Office of Naval Research

This award recognizes up to 2 students who demonstrated excellence in science research or engineering design. The winners will receive a certificate of achievement and a medallion.

The winners are:

1. J-1100-02 Jada Fitzpatrick and Aaliya Godwin
2. J-1100-07 Eli Daugherty

Science Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM) Award

Sponsored by: The United States Air Force

This award recognizes one project from any category that demonstrates outstanding science or engineering. The winners will receive a certificate of achievement, medal, and prize package.

The winners are: J-600-09 Asher Beddingfeild

J-600-08 Roxanne Hardy

“Taking the Pulse of the Planet Award”

Sponsored by: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

This award will go to one individual selected from among all the categories 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.” The winner will receive a certificate, and a letter.

The winner is: J-200-02 Kira LeFevre

Now we will shift gears and announce the placement winners of each category. A judging panel of over 50 scientists and engineers determined which projects scored highest today in each category. In addition, the judges determined which projects should advance from GEARSEF to the Alabama Science and Engineering Fair (ASEF) in April by only awarding certificates to those projects meriting advancement to the state fair. Students receiving these certificates will automatically qualify to advance to the Alabama State Science Fair. In addition, the 1st place winner of each category will receive a \$50 cash prize. Students, if I call your name please come forward to receive your award.

CATEGORY AWARDS

Category 100: Animal and Plant Sciences

3rd J-100-01 Devin Flowers

2nd J-100-06 Annabelle Johnson

1st J-100-10 Corey Mathews

Category 200: Behavioral & Social Science

- 3rd J-200-8 Conor Caputo
2nd J-200-7 June Haynie
1st J 200-2 Kira Lefevre

Category 400: Chemistry

- 3rd J-400-06 Piper Engle
2nd J-400-04 Dominic Vilardi
1st J-400-09 Avery Steensland

Category 500 Engineering Technology

- 1st J-500-02 Abby Skinner

Category 600: Material Sciences & Energy: Sustainable Materials and Design

- 3rd J-600-13 Jack Tompkins and Noah Cook
2nd J-600-08 Roxane Hardy
1st J 600-09 Asher Beddingfield

Category 700: Earth & Environmental Sciences & Environmental Engineering

- 3rd J-700-04 Joseph Lefevre and J-700-011 Sania Kazmi
2nd J-700-02 Jessica Shu
1st J-700-12 Minlu Wang-He and Ayoung Jeong

Category 800: Medicine, Health & Translational Medical Science

- 3rd Paylin Cunningham and Lanie Lindsey / Joseph Hathaway
2nd Ethan Pemberton
1st Max Mitchell, Eisleigh Stevens, and Kara Lucien

Category 900: Physics, Astronomy & Mathematics

- 3rd Nathan Dowd
2nd Greer Collins
1st Greyson Marker / Peyton Keith, Deandre Jenkins, Nichelle Letang

Category 1100: Robotic Systems & Communication Technology

- 3rd Eli Daugherty
- 2nd Payton Sidwell and Lachlan Owens
- 1st Jaida Fitzpatrick and Aaliyah Godwin

Judge's Choice Award (OPTIONAL - up to 3 projects)

The Judge's Choice Award is awarded to students whose projects merit advancement to the state level competition. However, due to a high number of highly competitive projects in their category, may not have placed 1st, 2nd, or 3rd.

1. Mary Gowen
2. Ritesh Babu
3. Carter Kenyon
3. Anna Marie Conway

Junior Innovators' Challenge (certificate)

The Thermo Fisher Junior Innovators' is the national competition for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students who participate in affiliated science fairs. Our fair has the honor of selecting the top 10% of projects today to continue their journey to the national competition. Junior Innovator nominees are invited to complete the online application, and are eligible for valuable prizes and awards including \$25,000, iPads, STEM summer camp, and more. This nomination is an honor, and distinguishes these projects as among the top 10% in the nation. From the complete list of entrants, the top 300 semi-finalists will be selected and announced next fall. This list of 300 will be narrowed to 30 and those students who are selected will win an all-expense-paid trip to the Junior Innovators finals from in Washington DC.

Please come forward as we call your name. The Junior Innovators finalists from GEARSEF are:

1. Asher Beddingfield
2. Roxanne Hardy
3. Minlu Wang He and Ayoung Jeong
4. Kira Lefevre
5. Jack Tompkins and Noah Cook
6. Jaida Fitzpatrick and Aaliyah Godwin
7. June Haynie
8. Jessica Shu
9. Max Mitchell, Eisleigh Stevens, and Kara Lucien

10. Ian Pich
11. Greyson Marker
12. Carter Kenyon

Congratulations to all our participants and winners today!

I have a few notes for winners:

- 1.) Today's winners have received a variety of awards – some sponsored internally by Auburn University Montgomery Departments and Organizations as well as others sponsored by other outside organizations. These awards may have a specific requirement for follow up action. Directions and any additional forms, paperwork or instructions are included in your award packet, behind your certificate. **Please pay close attention to all stated deadlines.**
- 2.) If you are advancing to the state science fair, we have included instructions with your award about the advancement process.
- 3.) If you are a Junior Innovator nominee, please be sure to pay close attention to the incentives listed for registration and deadlines for participation.