

GEARSEF 2023 Awards Ceremony Winners List (Senior 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 achievement award recognizes students that exemplify excellence in the creative application of biological principles through research in biology related categories. The winner will receive a \$100 cash prize and a certificate.

The winner is: S-100-04 Sumin Park

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 \$100 cash award.

The winner is: S-400-08 Kaitlyn Price, Shandrea Robinson, and Crantasia Jordan

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 \$100 cash award.

The winner is: S-1100-03 Kevin Yan

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 \$100 cash award.

The winner is: S-900-08 Peyton Keith, Deandre Jenkins, and Nishelle Letang

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 \$100 cash award.

The winner is: S-1100-03 Kevin Yan

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 \$100 cash award and a certificate.

The winner is: S-200-03 Rachel Allen

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 \$100 cash award.

The winner is: S-1100-04 Sarai Wyrick

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 \$100 cash award.

The winner is: S-600-01 Christopher Valeri

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 \$100 cash award.

The winner is: S-1100-03 Kevin Yan

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 \$100 cash award.

The winner is: S-900-10/S-600-18 Aurora Liang

The following awards have external sponsors.

American Psychological Association Award

Sponsored by: American Psychological Association

This award recognizes the top project in the category of Behavior & Social Sciences. The winner will receive a certificate of recognition.

The winner is: S-200-03 Rachel Allen

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: S-700-03 Jaycee Wisdom and Katherine Fenn

International Development Science Champion Award

Sponsored by: US Agency for International Development (USAID)

This award will be given to the student(s) whose project is an outstanding demonstration of solving an important global development challenge in areas such as agriculture and food security, democracy and governance, economic growth, education, environment and global change, gender equality, global health, science, technology and innovation, water and sanitation or working in crises and conflict. The winner will receive a certificate and a social media packet.

The winner is: S-1100-03 Kevin Yan

NASA Earth System Science Award

This award will be given to the student whose project offers the greatest insight into earth's interconnected systems. The winner will receive a certificate of achievement.

The winner is: S-700-02 Rhett Pinkston

National Geographic: That's Geography!

Sponsored by: National Geographic

This award will be given to the student whose project focuses on issues of oceans, land, wildlife, human history & cultures and human ingenuity or brings geographic concepts and skills to life in new, non-traditional ways. The winner will receive a certificate and \$100.00 cash award.

The winner is: S-600-12 Gabrielle Briggins and Shardajai Harris

Naval Science Award

Sponsored by: Office of Naval Research

This award recognizes two students who demonstrated excellence in science research or engineering design. The winners will receive a certificate of achievement, a medallion, and a \$50 gift card to follow.

The winners are:

1. S-600-12 Gabrielle Briggins and Shardajai

2. S-600-21 Benjamin Tzou

Regeneron Biomedical Science Award

Sponsored by: The Society for Science

This award recognizes an exceptional student scientist who not only demonstrates an impressive command of biomedical science and research, but also embodies Regeneron's core values and behaviors known as "The Regeneron Way". The winner will receive a certificate and a \$375 cash award.

The winner is: S-800-09 Timothy Hughes

Ricoh Sustainable Development Award

This award recognizes the project that best reflects the principles of sustainability --balancing economic development with environmental responsibility. The winner will receive a certificate of recognition.

The winner is: S-600-14 Raymond Hou and Lindsay Levy

Science Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM) Award

Sponsored by: The United States Air Force

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

The winners are:

1. S-1100-03 Kevin Yan
2. S-600-16 Will Bao

Outstanding Achievement for Ability and Creativity in In Vitro Biology

Sponsored by: Society for In Vitro Biology

This award recognizes an 11th grader that exhibits achievement in the area of plant or animal in vitro biology or tissue culture. Winners receive a certificate and letter of congratulations.

The winner is: S-600-16 Whitley Shull

Stockholm Junior Water Prize (certificate and chance to enter on-line competition)

Sponsored by: Water Environment Federation and Xylem Inc.

This award is considered the most prestigious award for water related sciences, both nationally and internationally. The prize strives to encourage enthusiasm in today's youth regarding water issues, build an international community of young scientists bonded together for the water environment, raise public awareness about the future of water resources, and develop and ensure future leadership in the water quality community.

The Stockholm Water Foundation recognizes up to three projects that best address water related issues. The winner(s) of this award are invited to enter a statewide on-line competition hosted by the Stockholm Water Foundation.

The winners are:

1. S-400-10 Whitley Shull
2. S-700-02 Rhett Pinkston

Yale Science and Engineering Association Award

Sponsored by: Yale Science and Engineering Association

This award will be given to the most outstanding 11th grade project in the areas of computer science, engineering, physics, or chemistry. In extraordinary cases, it may be awarded to 10th or 12th grade. The winner will receive a certificate and a medallion to follow.

The winner is: S-1100-04 Sarai Wyrick

Best Use of the International Systems of Units

Sponsored by: US Metric Association

This award recognizes the research project that expresses measurements in the SI correctly including calculations, data, graphs, and conclusions. The winner will receive a certificate.

The winner is: S-600-09 London Van Every and Austin McCaffrey

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 S-100-02 Jacob Norrell

2nd S-100-03 Destiny Carpenter

1st S-100-04 Sumin Park

Category 200: Behavioral & Social Science

2nd S-200-06 Lamya Sumbry

1st S-200-03 Rachel Allen

Category 300: Cellular, Molecular, Microbiology & Biochemistry

3rd S-300-05 Olivia Hicks and Timothy Jarrell

2nd S-300-06 Ashtyn Roberts

1st S-300-04 Rhea Rastogi

Category 400: Chemistry

3rd S-400-09 Brennan Parks

2nd S-400-08 Kaitlyn Price, Shendrea Robinson and Crantasia Jordan

1st S-400-05 Hayden Mckenzie

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

- 3rd S-600-14 Raymond Hou and Lindsay Levy
2nd S-600-01 Christopher Valeri
1st S-600-16 Will Bao

Category 700: Earth & Environmental Sciences & Environmental Engineering

- 3rd S-700-04 Parker Thompson
2nd S-700-03 Jaycee Wisdom and Katherine Fenn
1st S-700-05 Brennan Rey

Category 800: Medicine, Health & Translational Medical Science

- 3rd S-800-12 Allie Hales and Kaitlyn Harris
2nd S-800-04 Jadyn Reid and Kyleigh Saunders
1st S-800-09 Timothy Hughes

Category 900: Physics, Astronomy & Mathematics

- 2nd S-900-02 Dylan Matyjasik and Nicholas Simmons
1st S-900-10/S-600-18 Aurora Liang

Category 1100: Robotic Systems & Communication Technology

- 3rd S-1100-04 Sarai Wyrick
2nd S-1100-01 Edwin Wu
1st S-1100-03 Kevin Yan

Judge's Choice Award

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. S-600-04 Naeim Mahjouri
2. S-600-08 Eliseo Gonzalez and Nicholas Sasser
3. S-600-21 Benjamin Tzou
4. S-600-15 Lillian Vilardi

5. S-800-02 John Belew

6. S-400-01 Nisirr McMiller

7. S-400-11 Hannah Rogers and Anthony Driver

GEARSEF will also advance our top three Best of Fair winners directly to the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair 2023. Auburn University at Montgomery will cover all expenses for three students to attend ISEF in Dallas as representatives of GEARSEF at Auburn University Montgomery. This year's Best of Fair winners are:

S-100-04 Sumin Park

S-600-14 Raymond Hou and Lindsay Levy

S-200-03 Rachel Allen

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 advancing to ISEF, pay close attention to the information we have provided you about ISEF registration deadlines and details from Dr. Virginia Vilardi who coordinates all travel arrangements and event details.