

News Release

Dobbs Ferry High School Science Research Students Excel at Westchester Science and Engineering Fair

Dobbs Ferry, NY. March 10, 2015— Dobbs Ferry High School Science Research students fared exceptionally well at the 2015 Westchester Science and Engineering Fair (WESEF) competition bringing home 13 different awards in multiple categories. More than 420 students from 33 high schools in Westchester and Putnam counties attended the largest and most competitive science fair in the region. Students presented their research to a group of approximately 300 professional scientists who volunteered as official science fair judges. The competition was held on Saturday, March 7th, 2015 at Sleepy Hollow High School.

Top awards for best student projects overall were awarded to ten individual and three team projects and Dobbs Ferry High School senior Evan Cain, who took home first place in Cell & Molecular Biology, was one of the grand prize finalists and will represent the Westchester-Putnam area at this year's prestigious Intel International Science & Engineering Fair (ISEF) on May 10th – May 15th in Pittsburgh, PA. In total, nearly 350 awards were made possible thanks to the generous donation of the WESEF sponsors including Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Acorda Therapeutics, and Entergy

Dobbs Ferry students also garnered the following Special Awards:

- The American Psychological Association Award: Joseph Rocchio (Behavior)
- ASU Walton Sustainability Award: Beckett Morris and Olivia Smith (Animal Science)
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Award: Philip Monteiro (Plant Science)
- The Walter Kass Memorial Award for Excellence in Behavioral Science: Nikki Greenwald (Behavior)

Major Category Award Winners included:

- 3rd Place in Behavior and Psychology: Jacqueline Addona
- 3rd Place in Cell and Molecular Biology: Sasha Clarick
- 3rd Place in Engineering: Rohan Cherian-Ashe
- 3rd Place in Medicine and Health (Team Project): Yiorgos Argyros (Dobbs) and Emily McCarthy (Mamaroneck)
- 3rd Place in Physics: Gabriel Natale
- 2nd Place in Mathematics: Noah Baron
- 2nd Place in Plant Science: Bridget Sheridan
- 1st Place in Cell & Molecular Biology: Evan Cain

“This is our largest group yet participating in WESEF...it’s double the number of students from two years ago,” said Dobbs Ferry Science Research Teacher Dr. Tom Callahan. “Between WESEF and the WesRoc Symposium, every student’s project has received an award in a major regional competition.”

The Dobbs Ferry student researchers once again faced stiff competition, especially from Ossining, Yorktown and Pelham which are also sending representatives to ISEF. Other local participating schools included Ardsley, Mamaroneck, Eastchester, Briarcliff, Blind Brook, Edgemont, Horace Greeley, Irvington, Sleepy Hollow, and Hastings, among others. This is the first year that Dobbs Ferry has teamed up with another school's science research program to enter a group project, and the second time this year that Yiorgos Argyros (Dobbs) and Emily McCarthy (Mamaroneck) have won an award for their collaborative research on Epilepsy. They were named Semi-Finalists in the Siemens Competition earlier this year.

Since its inception in 2000, WESEF has grown tremendously. Students deliver seven-minute formal presentations of their scientific accomplishments in a poster forum to a panel of professional researchers in the local area. The top individual and team projects are awarded the honor of representing Westchester and Putnam counties in the Intel International Science & Engineering Fair, where they will compete with over 1500 high school research students from over 50 countries worldwide. **Dobbs Ferry High School's Science Research Course**, which was first introduced in 2007, has produced three Intel Science Talent Search Semi-Finalists, a previous ISEF Finalist, a Semi-Finalist in the prestigious Siemens Competition in Math, Science & Technology, and five Acorda Science Excellence Award winners, among other honors.

The goal of the science research program is to provide students with the opportunity to conduct authentic and original scientific research of their own choosing, as part of their high school experience. This is a three-year course of study, beginning in 10th grade, and is geared toward students who are passionate about science. Students team up with a mentor in developing a project that ultimately culminates in an in-depth research paper. Presently, the science research program includes approximately 50 students and the program is continuing to grow and attract students who want to develop original research projects.

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