



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Banning Unified School District Celebrates Outstanding Achievements at Science Fair & History Day Recognition Ceremony**

BANNING, CA — On January 14, 2025, the Banning Unified School District hosted its annual **Science Fair & History Day Recognition Ceremony** at the **Banning High School Performing Arts Center**. The event celebrated the remarkable achievements of students who excelled at the district level in both the Science Fair and History Day competitions. Students were awarded medals and certificates in recognition of their hard work and dedication.

The ceremony highlighted outstanding projects from both competitions, showcasing creativity, innovation, and a commitment to academic excellence. These exceptional students now have the opportunity to advance to the county level, where their projects will compete against other top students in Riverside County through the Riverside County Office of Education.

#### **History Day Overview and Winners**

National History Day (NHD) is a year-long educational program for students in grades 4 through 12. For 2025, the theme is "**Rights & Responsibilities in History.**" Students selected historical topics, conducted in-depth research, and created projects that analyzed their significance. Winners advance through a series of competitions, from local to national levels.

#### **Individual Projects**

- **1st Place:** *Rosa Parks* – Central Elementary School (Angeli Gonzalez)
- **2nd Place:** *Rosa Parks* – Central Elementary School (Peyton Moore)
- **3rd Place:** *Mexican War of Independence 1810* – Hemmerling Elementary School (Gabriel Rodriguez)

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PR: 2425-013



## Group Projects

- **1st Place:** *Harriet Tubman* – Hemmerling Elementary School (Alaiah Barbosa, Lauren Sphabmixay, Juliet Cruz Flores)
- **2nd Place:** *Ruby Bridges Changes Education* – Hoffer Elementary School (Genesis Stewart, Eliana Garcia, Kiona Cameron, Isaziah Allen, Ethan Frausto)
- **3rd Place:** *Restoring Native Traditions* – Hemmerling Elementary School (Ella Brock, Melanie Avila)

## Science and Engineering Fair Overview and Winners

The **Science and Engineering Fair** provides students the opportunity to showcase their creativity and scientific knowledge. Projects are evaluated on scientific method, clarity, originality, and presentation. Winners advance from district to county, state, and even international competitions, such as the **International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF)**.

### Elementary Division

- **1st Place:** *Fountain of Truth* – Hemmerling Elementary School (Zaden Zamudio & Melanie Avila)
- **2nd Place:** *Pop!* – Central Elementary School (Nayana Williams)
- **3rd Place:** *Stain, Stain Go Away* – Central Elementary School (Melanie Gutierrez)

### Middle School Division

- **1st Place:** *Which Method of Apple Slice Preservation is Most Successful Without Compromising Taste* – Nicolet Middle School (Elizabeth Scott-Magedman)
- **2nd Place:** *Plant Growth* – Nicolet Middle School (Anabelle Ortiz & Darla Orosco)
- **3rd Place:** *What Object Has More Bacteria: A Phone Screen, a Toilet Seat, or a Door Knob* – Nicolet Middle School (Anthony Thomas)

Superintendent **Terrance Davis** expressed his pride in the students, stating, “These students exemplify the spirit of academic excellence in Banning USD. Their hard work, creativity, and passion for learning are truly inspiring, and we are excited to see them represent our District at the county level.”

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**Photos from the ceremony can be viewed at**

<https://banning-usd.smugmug.com/2024-2025/January-Events/Science-Fair-History-Day-Recognition-Ceremony>.

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**About Banning Unified School District:**

Banning Unified School District serves nearly 4,300 students across its schools and is one of the largest employers in the city of Banning, with over 500 dedicated staff members. The district's mission is to collaborate as a diverse community to develop responsible, respectful, and prepared students who achieve their full potential. Guided by its vision to prepare, inspire, and educate, Banning USD is committed to fostering a supportive environment where students can thrive academically and personally.

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(Photos have been attached)

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# Banning

UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

*Prepare, inspire and educate*



PHOTO CAPTION: Banning Unified School District students are honored at the Science Fair and History Day Recognition Ceremony.

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