

Press from:

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Subject: **New Providence School District awards Certificates of Excellence in STEM**

The New Providence School District was pleased to honor the Technology Student Association National Award recipients with Certificates of Excellence at the Board of Education meeting on Thursday, October 16, 2025. Certificates were bestowed by Board of Education member, Ms. Donna Zane.

The Technology Student Association (TSA) offers over 40 competitions for middle and high school students to apply their knowledge and skills in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). TSA competitions help students explore topics that interest them and develop leadership skills. There are currently over 300,000 students enrolled in TSA worldwide.

Ram Panchacharam and Lucas Lazarus earned 2nd Place in Animatronics. Students were challenged to create an animatronic exhibit for a public library to excite young readers. The team created an interactive children's book with rotating, acted-out scenes.

Trevor Fornuff and Sebastian Mercado earned 3rd Place in Virtual Reality Simulation. Students were challenged to create a virtual reality (VR) visualization of a family vacation destination that incorporates experiences and activities appealing to both young children and teenagers. Trevor and Sebastian wowed the judges with their incredibly detailed scuba simulator.

The New Providence School District is immensely proud of these students' achievements and encourages them to continue exploring their passions in STEM. The District recognizes and thanks the dedicated STEM educators, from elementary through high school, who have guided and supported the students throughout their journeys and during these competitions, and especially to their advisors Rachel Fintz, Dan Barletta, Sue Rembetsy, Kathleen French, Mike Makmur, and Jennifer Pasuit.

