

June 19, 2021 State Science Day News Release

Upper Miami Valley Students Compete in Virtual State Science Day

Forty-seven students from twelve local school districts recently competed successfully in the second Online “Virtually Judged” Ohio Academy of Science State Science Day held in late May of this year. After seventy-one years of live State Science Day competitions, 2020 and 2021 required an online platform due to the COVID-19 restrictions on large events. Over 600 students from across the state participated in the competition where a total of almost one-half million dollars was distributed as scholarships and awards. Students presented independent research projects in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. All of the local students did exceptionally well with twenty-eight receiving superior scores.

Receiving Superior ratings were: **from Anna HS** – Caden Cruset, Riley Gaydosh, Ben Kovacs, Josephine Gehret, Brook Steinke; **from Ansonia HS** – Marissa Shook; **from Arcanum HS** – Karr Stump; **from Bethel HS** – Lisa Sebastian; **from Lehman Catholic HS, Sidney** – Adith George, Valerie Rindler, David Rossman, Emilee VanSkiver; **from Miami East HS** – Katie Weddle; **from Milton-Union HS** – Mikayla Lair, Micah Tracy; from Milton-Union MS – Jacob Fraley, Liam Hartley; **from Tippecanoe MS** – Parker Kaibas, Sadhil Mehta, Junya Sakumoto, Carson Jackson, Elias Stienecker; **from L.T. Ball Intermediate, Tipp City** – Audrey Jackson, Aubrey Ernst, Hailey Everhart, Elanor Van Oss; **from Versailles HS** – Kennedy Hughes, Lauren Menke.

Twenty students earned special project awards totaling \$2,775, two \$1,000 Stone Lab Field Course scholarships, three \$1,000 OTTA 529 Plan Scholarships and a renewable college scholarship of \$2,000 (up to four years) and one for \$1,500 (up to four years).

Awards and scholarships earned included: **from Anna HS** – Riley Gaydosh, Stone Laboratory Field Course Scholarship; Josephine Gehret, Governor’s Award in Information Science & Technology Research, 4th place; Dylan Seigle, EWI Award in Material Science, 3rd place and \$25, Governor’s Award in Advanced Materials, 3rd place & \$500; **from Ansonia HS** – Marissa Shook, Nestle Product Technology Center Food Science & Engineering Award, 3rd place & \$200; **from Bethel HS** – Lisa Sebastian, JLG Excellence in Engineering Award, 1st place & \$100; **from L.T. Ball Intermediate, Tipp City** - Aubrey Ernst & Audrey Jackson, Ohio Tuition Trust Authority 529 Savings Scholarship, \$1,000 each; **from Lehman Catholic HS** – Adith George, Univ. of Akron renewable scholarship \$1,500; Valerie Rindler, American Chemical Society – Columbus Section award, 3rd place & \$200; Emily VanSkiver, OVMAA Veterinary Medicine Award, Honorable Mention; Anna Marie Stiver, Ohio Northern Univ. renewable scholarship, \$2,000; **from Milton-Union HS** – Mikayla Lair, Ohio Psychological Assn. Behavioral Science Award, \$250; **from Milton-Union MS** – Jacob Fraley, Broadcom Masters invitation, Ohio Tuition Trust Authority 529 Savings Scholarship, \$1,000; **from Tippecanoe MS** – Carson Jackson & Elias Stienecker, Interdisciplinary Research Award, plaque, Broadcom Masters invitation, Thomas Richmond Jr. Data Driven Award, 1st place & \$100; Sadhil Mehta, American Chemical Society-Columbus Section Award, \$500; Parker Kaibas, Broadcom Masters invitation, Dr. Lynn E. Elfner Young Scientist

Award \$100; **from Versailles HS** – Lauren Menke, Statistical Analysis Award from American Statistical Assn, 1st place, Future Physician-Scientist Award from OSU College of Medicine, 2nd place & \$250; Kennedy Hughes, Future Physician-Scientist Award from OSU College of Medicine, 1st place & \$500, Nationwide Children’s Hospital Research Institute Trainee Assn. 2nd place & \$100; Ethan Varner, Stone Laboratory Field Course Scholarship, Milt Austin Aquatic Science Award, 3rd place & \$50.

State Science Day multi-year participants were also recognized, including Lisa Sebastian, Bethel HS – 7 year trophy; Julie Sebastian, Bethel MS and Ash Williams, Greenville HS – 5 year trophy; and Lauren Menke, Versailles HS, Marissa Shook, Ansonia HS, Sadhil Mehta, Tippecanoe MS, 4 year trophies.

In addition, two schools received the Harold C. Shaw Memorial Outstanding School Award Trophy – Anna HS and Tippecanoe MS.

Upper Miami Valley Science Days provides the opportunity for students, grades 5-12, in Champaign, Darke, Miami and Shelby Counties, to complete and present original scientific research. This program is organized and supported by many area schools, teachers, parents, Edison Community College, and a number of businesses, professionals, community organizations, and other interested individuals. For additional information, go to the UMVSD website at: www.ohioumvsd.com