

2018 State Science & Engineering Fair News

Student scientists and engineers attended the 2018 Florida State Science & Engineering Fair of Florida, March 27, 28 and 29, in Lakeland, FL, at the RP Funding Center. The event was administered by the FFFS – Florida Foundation for Future Scientists, a state-wide, non-profit organization to discover scientific and technical talent in our schools and encourage careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM).

According to the Fair's program, "More than 950 SSEF Finalists from 67 districts throughout Florida have been selected from among more than 11,000 students who exhibited in one of 37 Florida Regional Science and Engineering Fairs (RSEF). The number of projects displayed at 2017-2018 sub-regional events and science research competitions leading up to the affiliated RSEFs exceeded 140,000."

The results for Escambia County students are:

Claira Han – 2nd place – Environmental Engineering – Junior Division

Han attends Brown Barge Middle School and her instructor is Susan Hunter. Her project's title was: Make Way Oil: Removing Polluting Oil from Our Oceans.

Kaley Hammock – 3rd place – Biomedical Health Sciences – Junior Division

Hammock attends Brown Barge Middle School and her instructor is Richard Hunter. Her project's title was: Do Mutations in the Pink 1 Gene Affect Climbing Ability in the Fruit Fly?

Margo Mason - Recognition – Physics & Astronomy – Junior Division

Mason attends Brown Barge Middle School and her instructor is Richard Hunter. Her project's title was: Newton's Skateboard.

Alexander Pope – 3rd place – Engineering – Senior Division

Pope attends Pensacola high School and his instructor is Cherie Stephens. His project's title was: Environmental Status of a Mesocosm Using an ESP32.

Virginia Beall – Honorable Mention – Behavioral & Social Sciences – Senior Division

Beall attends Pensacola High School and her instructor is Cherie Stephens. Her project's title was: The Effect of Gender Representation on Attitude Towards Perceived Intelligence.

Competing in the SSEF also means an opportunity for students to win scholarships and special opportunity awards. The West Panhandle Region results were:

Animal Sciences – Junior winners were Mariah Golson and Marina Deubler for their team project. They attend Brown Barge Middle School and their instructor is Richard Hunter. They won a \$25.00 cash award sponsored by the Osceola Regional Science and Engineering Fair.

Animal Sciences – Senior winner was Dana Amin from Pensacola High School. Her instructor is Allan Robinson and she won a \$25.00 cash award sponsored by the Alachua Regional Science and Engineering Fair.

Environmental Engineering – Junior winner was Claire Han from Brown Barge Middle School. Her instructor is Susan Hunter and she won a \$75.00 gift card from the Florida Society of Environmental Analysts; a Certificate and Medallion for the NOAA's Taking the Pulse of the Planet Award™; and, a certificate and nomination packet from the Broadcom MASTERS(see Note).

Physics & Astronomy – Senior winner was Amy Zhang from Pensacola High School. Her instructor is Richard Hunter. She won a certificate and Laptop Backpack package from the United States Air Force.

Also recognized from the West Panhandle Region, from Holley Navarre Middle School in Santa Rosa County, with instructor Steven Maier were:

Donovyn Ray – Recognition – Systems Software – Junior Division

Gavin Unterreiner - 2nd place – Chemistry- Junior Division. He also won a special award for Chemistry – Junior Division. He won a certificate and nomination packet from Broadcom MASTERS (See Note).

Note: A nomination from Broadcom MASTERS (*) means an opportunity to compete for additional awards and prizes and the designation of semi-finalists. Then finalists will be announced in September and will receive an award of \$500 and an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. to compete in Finalist Week. For more information, go to <https://student.societyforscience.org/broadcom-masters-faq>. Best wishes to Han and Unterreiner.

For more information about FFFS programs, including the State Science and Engineering Fair of Florida, visit their web page at www.ssefflorida.com.

Photo: State science fair 2018(1). jpeg: West Panhandle State Science Fair Finalists in Lakeland, FL for the 63rd State Science and Engineering Fair of Florida, March 27-29, 2018.

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