

May 10, 2025 State Science Day News Release

Upper Miami Valley Students Compete in Virtual State Science Day

Forty-five students from fifteen local schools recently competed successfully in the 2025 Virtually Judged Ohio Academy of Science State Science Day held in April of this year. Over 700 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 of them receiving Superior ratings.

Receiving Superior ratings were: from **Anna HS** – Audrey Flaute; **Decolores Montessori** – Nalayna Miley, Caleb Miller; **Graham Elementary** – Xavier Garcia, Liam Kizer, Rees Hedrick; **Holy Angels MS** – Tyler Miller, Sophie Sollmann; **Jackson Center Elem** – Caleb Lotz, Elias Shuster; **Miami East HS** – Kara Hale; **Miami East JHS** - Jackson Gray, Brooke Barnes, Emma Register; **Milton-Union HS** – Liam Hartley; **St Patrick, Troy** - Ernesto Flores; **Tippecanoe HS** – Sadhil Mehta, Collin Snider; **Tippecanoe MS** – Olivia Phillips, Emily Riehle, Maximilian Leshner; **L. T. Ball Intermediate, Tipp City** - Ujval Kondapalli; **Tri-Village HS** – Reggie Osborne, Ezra Gutierrez, Colton Clevenger, Cora Gutierrez; **Upper Valley Career Center** - Addyson Klima; **Urbana HS** – Dakota Nance.

All students receiving a State Science Day Superior rating were invited along with a parent to a Celebration event held at the Ohio State University on Saturday, May 10. Students presented their projects to scientists, engineers, university educators, peers and parents, toured selected OSU campus departments and laboratories and attended an awards ceremony.

Eleven students earned special project awards and/or scholarships: to Ernesto Flores, St Patrick-Troy, the Lemelson Early Inventor Prize, \$100; to Kara Hale, 10th grade from Miami East High School, Behavioral Science Award, grade 10 - 1st place \$150; to Rachel Harshbarger, Anna High School - Certificate Excellence Award for Civil Engineering Projects; to Audrey Flaute, Anna HS, the Gordon J. Aubrecht Award for Outstanding Physics Projects ,2nd place \$100 and the Dick Goddard Honorary Young Atmospheric Scientist Award 2nd Place \$100; \$100; to Ezra Gutierrez, Tri-Village, a nomination to the Thermo Fisher Scientific Junior Innovators Challenge Fair; to Jaxen Anderson, Tippecanoe MS, Ohio Soybean Bioscience Award, Honorable Mention, \$100; to Emily Riehle, Tippecanoe MS, 6th grade, Behavioral Science Award 1st place, \$75; to Maximilian Leshner, Tippecanoe MS, 6th grade, Excellence Award for Civil Engineering Projects, 1st place \$200, Gordon J. Aubrecht Award for Outstanding Physics Projects, 1st place \$150, Ohio Tuition Trust authority 529 scholarship \$1,000 and a nomination to the Thermo Fisher Scientific Junior Innovators Challenge Fair; to Olivia Phillips, Tippecanoe MS, an Ohio Tuition Trust authority 529 scholarship \$1,000 and a nomination to the Thermo Fisher Scientific Junior Innovators Challenge Fair; Collin Snider, Tippecanoe HS, the Gordon J. Aubrecht Award for Outstanding Physics Projects 1St Place \$150 and the Governor's Award for Excellence in Environmental Protection Research \$100; Sadhil

Mehta, Tippecanoe HS, the Governor's Award for Excellence in Environmental Protection Research \$100 and the Governor's Thomas Edison Award for Excellence in Information Science & Technology Research 1st place – a \$1,750 Scholarship.

State Science Day multi-year participants were also recognized, including Sadhil Mehta, – 8 years; Aubrey Ernst & Audrey Jackson - 5 years, Collin Snider – 4 years, all from Tippecanoe HS. Also Cora Gutierrez, Tri-Village HS – 4 years and Liam Hartley, Milton-Union HS – 6 years. A coveted Harold Shaw School Award & Trophy was presented to Tri-Village HS, all projects having received Superior ratings.

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