

# Students Honored for Science, Engineering

by Jim Stickford

STEM seems to be taking a step forward, if the results of the 57th annual Science and Engineering Fair of Metro Detroit is any indication.

When the grand prize finalists were announced, those students obviously knew what they were doing.

The event, which was held March 10-12 at Cobo Center in Detroit, is sponsored by the Science and Engineering Fair of Metropolitan Detroit.

Competition is separated into two groups – the Junior Division, which is sixth through eighth grades – and Senior Division, which covers high school.

Students are judged within their categories – a total of 13 categories based on scientific discipline.

Up to six students in the Junior Division and one student per school in the senior division may be selected to participate in the International Science and Engineering Fair, said Detroit Fair director Tim Fino.

More than 1,600 students from the tri-county area participated this year. Students producing seven projects in the Senior Division earned the chance to compete in the Michigan Science Fair April 5 at Kettering University.

Fino said there were more than one finalist in some categories.

Senior Division finalists were:

- Biochemistry – Andrew Lekarczyk and Sam Ilkka of the University of Detroit Jesuit High School. The juniors' project was about the utilization of bioluminescence for the diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease and related autopathies.

- Engineering – Nadim Bari of Cass Technical High School in Detroit. A senior, his project was about enhancing target efficiency of a laser by the integration of a stabilization system.

- Engineering – Daniel Jin, a senior at Rochester Adams High School. His project was about electronic anti-counterfeit protection using a pseudorandom binary sequence.

- Mathematics – Madhurima Das, a senior at Plymouth High School. His project concerned cancerous tumor identification from MRI imaging analysis.

- Physics – Vipul Nandigala, a junior at Walled Lake Western High. His project was about an application of Dean's Flow in micro channels for particle separation.

- Physics – Anirudh Sridhar, a senior at the International Academy – East Campus. His project dealt with increased efficiency in tip-enhanced raman spectroscopy (TERS).

- Zoology – Michael Shao, a junior at Detroit Country Day Upper. His project was about understanding the neural circuitry regulating cold sensation in C. elegans, which is a type of microorganism.

Junior Division finalists were:

- Team Project – Hiba Huseini, with Eman Azrak and Danya Obeid of Huda School & Montessori. The eighth graders' project was titled, "Shark Shock."

- Microbiology – Arushi Arora, an eighth grader at Novi Middle School, who submitted a project titled, "Colloidal Silver to the Rescue!"

- Mathematics – Avery Burch, a sixth grader from Ann Arbor Trail Magent School. The project was named, "The Mathematics of Tsunami."

- Behavioral/Social Sciences – Kaliyah Gunter, a sixth grade student at the Paul Robeson Malcolm X Academy. The project was titled, "Birds and Color Configuration."

- Chemistry – Jayna Jones, a seventh grader at Thurgood Marshall Elementary. The project was called "Potatoes, Kale and

Beets: A Recipe for Winter Roads."

- Environmental Studies – Eivette Martinez, a seventh grader at Gompers Elementary-Middle School. The project was called, "Using Daphnia to Monitor Water Toxicity."

- Physics – Matthew Milez, a sixth grader at Macomb Math, Science and Technology Center – Middle School. The project was simply called, "Soundproofing."

- Engineering – Mitchell Morris, a seventh grader at Our Lady of Good Counsel Middle School. The project was called, "The Effect of Buildings on GPS Accuracy."

- Earth and Space Sciences – Ryan Thomas, an eighth grader at Ivan Ludington Magnet Middle School. The project was called, "Hydraulic Fracturing and the Potential on Water Aquifers."

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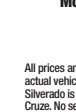
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## EU Suppliers Fined For Market Fixing

BRUSSELS (AP) – The European Union has fined two EU and four Japanese companies a total of nearly \$1.4 billion for rigging the market of key components in the car and truck industry at the expense of consumers.

EU Antitrust Commissioner Joaquin Almunia said March 19 it was at least the third case of market rigging in the car industry that the EU had found so far. Another half-dozen investigations are ongoing.

Almunia said, "It is incredible to see that one more car component was cartelized." He hoped the fines will deter companies from such illegal behavior and help restore competition.