
State science fair honors students and teacher from county:[7 Edition]

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A Chula Vista high school senior who studied genetic diversity in a native orchid species won student of the year honors at the California State Science Fair this week, while a teacher at Sacred Heart Academy was named one of the fair's teachers of the year.

Arietta Fleming-Davies of Bonita Vista High, who won a sweepstakes award in life sciences at last month's Greater San Diego Science & Engineering Fair, was student of the year of the state fair at the Los Angeles Sports Arena.

The annual \$1,000 award goes to a high school senior and recognizes academic excellence, ability to communicate, community service and breadth of activities and interests.

Teacher of the year for the junior division (Grades 6 through 8) was Kellie Marcarelli of Sacred Heart Academy in Ocean Beach. The award also carries a \$1,000 prize and honors the science teacher "who has been most inspirational" to students.

A John D. Isaac award with a \$12,000 college scholarship in marine science from the California Sea Grant Program went to senior Brian Fulkerson of Mount Miguel High in Spring Valley, who designed and assembled a remote-controlled deep-sea inspection vehicle.

San Diego County had 25 student winners at the state fair.

In addition to Arietta, they included three first-place winners: Francis Song, 10th grade, La Jolla High, who won for a project in mathematics and software; Cernan Bernardo, 12th grade, Mount Miguel High, behavioral sciences; and Renee Padilla, 12th grade, Mount Miguel High, zoology.

Second-place winners included Erin Moskitis, eighth grade, Sacred Heart Academy, in behavioral sciences; Erik Granstedt, 12th grade, Mount Miguel High, fluid mechanics, aerodynamics and thermophysics; Michiyo Wellington-Oguri, eighth grade, Standley Junior High, mathematics and software; Trisha Wills, 12th grade, Mount Miguel, microbiology; Ryan Naylor, eighth grade, Marshall Middle School, physiology; and Arin VanderVorst, 12th grade, Mount Miguel, zoology.

Third-place awards went to Jennifer Baietto, eighth grade, Good Shepherd Catholic School, behavioral sciences; Jade Smith, eighth grade, Wangenheim Junior High, earth

sciences, planetary sciences and physical environments; David Sacher, seventh grade, Santa Fe Christian School (Solana Beach), electricity and electronics; Ryan Sarkaria, eighth grade, Rhoades School (Encinitas), environmental engineering; Erica Sekins, eighth grade, Carmel Valley Middle School, fluid mechanics, aerodynamics and thermophysics; and Emily Balmert, seventh grade, Hillsdale Middle School (El Cajon), plant biology.

Honorable mentions went to Zachary Brown, eighth grade, School of the Madeleine, materials science; Marci Pack, 12th grade, San Diego High, mathematics and software; Stephanie Hancock, 12th grade, Bonita Vista High, pharmacology and toxicology; Grace Leslie, 11th grade, San Dieguito High (Encinitas), physics and astronomy; and Mitchael Evaristo, seventh grade, Sweetwater Academy for Individual Learning (Chula Vista), zoology.

Three others won special or recognition awards.

Nathan Hicks, an eighth-grader at Olive Peirce Middle School in Ramona, received an Energy Award from the Energy Commission of California for his project.

Briana C. Alvarez, ninth grade, Memorial Academy, received a California Science Center award for a young woman "identified as an outstanding future scientist."

And Tei Newman-Lehman, Muirlands Middle School, was recognized by the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics for a project "reflecting superior knowledge and understanding of aerospace sciences."

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