



St. Mary's County Science and Engineering Fair

2023 Annual Report

INTRODUCTION

This year, 2023, was a challenging but very rewarding year for the St. Mary's County Science and Engineering fair. After two years of holding our fair virtually, we were finally able to transition back to having it in person. Covid took a toll on the number of projects compared to previous years, but the quality of those projects maintained a high level of excellence. We are grateful for all the support the Fair received and would like to recognize all the judges, students, and parents for all their hard work which made this fair such a success.

ST. MARY'S COUNTY FAIR

This year's Science and Engineering Fair was held on January 28, 2023, at Great Mills High School. We had a total of 49 middle and high school students participating. The challenges of covid over the past 2 years have led to some great lessons being learned, and we have decided to incorporate these into the Fair moving forward. Judges can now review all the projects online the week before the event. This allows them to assess projects before the Fair and prepare any questions in advance. We also allotted specific fifteen-minute time slots for judging each project for Category Awards. This allowed the students to know exactly when they would be interviewed, making it possible for them to accomplish other activities if needed, such as socializing or attending to other commitments. With these new changes we were able to enhance the fair and make it more enjoyable. This saved time, allowed us to hold the award ceremony earlier, making what is typically a very long day of challenging competition shorter. Feedback received regarding these changes from both the judges and students was positive.



Project Judging

Students participated in 13 separate categories. All first and second place winners were offered the chance to move on to the next level and compete at the Prince George's Regional Area Science and Engineering Fair. Senior Grand award winners at the Prince George's Fair then move on to compete at the highest level: The Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF), was held this year in Dallas, Texas. In total 25 St. Mary's County projects competed at the regional level and two moved on as Finalists at ISEF!



SPECIAL AWARDS

Special Awards Judges evaluate student projects on criteria different than the Category Judges. We are very happy to announce that after two years of being unable to support Special Awards Judging due to Covid, this year they were back in full force. Over \$3200.00 in cash and scholarships, plus other prizes, were given out by both local and international institutions.



Special Award - Avian

GRAND AWARD

For the 2023 St. Mary's County Science and Engineering Fair, there were a total of four Grand Award projects. Two for the Junior Division and two for the Senior Division.



Grand Award Winners

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY REGIONAL SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FAIR

Our Fair had a total of 25 projects which moved forward to compete in the Prince George's County Regional Area Fair. With help from our generous sponsors, The St. Mary's County Science and Engineering Fair Board pays all the registration fees for those students progressing. This ensured these students were not responsible for paying for the opportunity to compete at the next level.



The Regional Fair was held on March 18, 2023 at Charles Herbert Flowers High School. Our students from St. Mary's County excelled at the Regional Fair this year. We had several Category Winners and two Senior Grand Award Winners. Our students also received many special awards.



INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FAIR (ISEF)

Two St. Mary's County students, Evan Walsh, and Ava Cotroneo each won Grand Award at the Prince George's Regional Area Science Fair, allowing them to compete at the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair from May 15-19, 2023 in Dallas, Texas. At the competition both students did extremely well, and both received national recognition, as well as Category and Special awards.



St. Mary's County ISEF Finalists

Ava gained national attention as she was interviewed by Business Insider about her project "Bulletproof Backpack Insert" which was also picked up by MSN. T-Bone and Heather, of the local radio station 98.3 Star FM and The Bay Net also featured her story.



Ava at the International Fair

Evan's Project titled "Magflow" won third place (\$1000.00) in the category of Engineering Technology: Statics & Dynamics. He competed against more than seventy other regional and national fair winning projects from all over the world. This is the highest placement that any St. Mary's County student has achieved at the International Science and Engineering Fair. He also won special awards which included a \$1,250.00 annual scholarship to Missouri University of Science and Technology and a scholarship to attend North Carolina State Engineering Summer Camp. His awards totaled over \$6,000.00.



The board would like to thank everyone involved for helping to make this such a successful year. We look forward to next year and your continued support as we work toward improving the Fair and continuing to create opportunities for our students. Thank You.