

GEARSEF 2021 Awards Ceremony (Junior Division)

SPECIAL AWARD RECOGNITIONS

Auburn University's 100 Women Strong Achievement Award

Sponsored by: 100 Women Strong

This achievement award recognizes females that exemplify excellence through research in any category. Winners will receive the following -1st place \$100 cash prize and a certificate, 2nd place \$75 cash prize and a certificate, 3rd place \$50 cash prize and a certificate.

The winners are:

1st place – Lily Vilardi – Wetumpka Middle School

2nd place – Rachel Dendy & Mary Ellis Baker – Redland Elementary School

3rd place – Kelsey Smith – Redland Elementary School

AU Biological Sciences Award for Creative Application of Biological Principles

Sponsored by: The Auburn University Department of Biological Science

This award recognizes a junior division project in the Animal and Plant Sciences Category. The winner will receive a \$50 cash award and a certificate.

The winner is: Kameron Riddick – Redland Elementary

AU Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry Award

Sponsored by: AU Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

This award recognizes high achievement in scientific research in the field of chemistry or biochemistry. The winner will receive a certificate and a \$50 cash award.

The winner is: Faith Zavalza – South Girard Middle School

AU Physics Award for Ingenuity and Inventiveness

Sponsored by: AU Department of Physics

Physical principles underlie all of science. This award is given in recognition of an individual who demonstrated an understanding of the laws of physics and how to use them to interpret and understand the world around us. The winner will receive a certificate and \$50 cash award.

The winner is: Jeffrey Torrence – Highlands Elementary

AU Samuel Ginn College of Engineering Award

Sponsored by: Samuel Ginn College of Engineering Award, Office of the Dean

This award will be given to project in any category that demonstrates an innovative application of math or science to a challenge of our society. The winner will receive a certificate and a \$100 cash award.

The winner is: Lily Vilardi – Wetumpka Middle School

AU Society of Women in Sciences and Mathematics Achievement Award

Sponsored by: The Society of Women in Sciences and Mathematics – Auburn University

This award recognizes high achievement in scientific research by a female. The winner of this award will receive a \$50 cash award and a certificate.

The winner is: Ava Trawick – Dothan Prep Academy

AU Spirit of Excellence

Sponsored by: The Auburn University COSAM Office of Inclusion, Diversity and Equity

This award recognizes any student for any category considered an underrepresented minority in STEM or persons with disabilities. The winner will receive a certificate and a \$50 cash award.

The winner is: Nicholas Thomas – Redland Elementary

Future Scientist Award

Sponsored by: The Dean of the College of Sciences and Mathematics

The award will be given to the student, in any category, who demonstrated a complete, thorough, and current understanding of a scientific topic during their interview. As such, this student shows great promise as a future researcher. The winner will receive a certificate and a \$100 cash award.

The winner is: Ariel Lumbatis – Highlands Elementary

Innovation of Robotic Systems Award

Sponsored by: Southeastern Center of Robotics Education

This award will recognize a project from any category that demonstrates the greatest promise for innovation in the use of robotic systems. The winner will receive a certificate and a \$100 cash award.

The winner is: Jeffrey Torrence – Highlands Elementary School

Lemelson Early Inventor Prize

Sponsored by: Lemelson Foundation

This award will recognize a young inventor creating a promising solution to real-world problems. The winner will receive a certificate and a \$100 cash award.

The winner is: Lily Vilardi – Wetumpka Middle School

Naval Science Award

Sponsored by: Office of Naval Research

This award recognizes up to 3 students who demonstrated excellence in science research or engineering design. The winners will receive a certificate of achievement and a medallion.

The winners are:

1. Lily Vilardi – Wetumpka Middle School
2. Jeffery Torrence – Highlands Elementary

Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers Young Innovator Award

Sponsored by: Auburn University Chapter of SHPE

This award recognizes research excellence presented by a minority student in an effort to encourage a lifelong enthusiasm for the sciences in traditionally underrepresented demographics. The winner will receive a certificate and a \$50 cash award.

The winner is: Jalynn Braxton – Millbrook Middle School

Talent in Mathematics and Statistics Award

Sponsored by: AU Department of Mathematics and Statistics

This award will recognize a project, from any category, that demonstrated strong mathematical and statistical analysis. The winner will receive a certificate and \$50 cash award.

The winner is: Christopher Valeri – East Samford School

Now we will shift gears and announce the placement winners of each category. A judging panel of over 40 scientists and engineers determined which projects scored highest in each category. In addition, the judges determined which projects should advance from GEARSEF to the Alabama Science and Engineering Fair (ASEF) in April by only awarding category medals to those projects meriting advancement to the state fair. Students who placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd will receive a medal and certificate and automatically qualify to advance to the Alabama State Science Fair held virtually on April 9-10, 2021. In addition, the 1st place winner of each category will receive a \$50 cash prize.

CATEGORY AWARDS

Category 100: Animal and Plant Sciences

- 1st Kameron Reddick – Redland Elementary School
- 2nd Jiwoo Park – Drake Middle School

Category 200: Behavioral & Social Science

1st Ariel Lumbatis – Highlands Elementary

Category 300: Cellular & Molecular Biology (NONE FOR JR DIVISION)

Category 400/700: Chemistry, Biochemistry, Materials Science, Earth & Environmental Sciences

1st Lily Vilardi – Wetumpka Middle School

2nd Joseph LeFevre – Wetumpka Middle School

3rd Abigail Tankersly – Carver Magnet School

Category 500: Engineering, Computer Science and Mathematics

1st Christopher Valeri – East Samford School

2nd Nicholas Thomas – Redland Elementary

3rd Abbie Renshaw – Carver Magnet School

Category 600/900: Energy, Physics & Astronomy

1st Jeffrey Torrence – Highlands Elementary

2nd Kristina Kasatkina – Carver Magnet School

Category 800: Medicine & Health Science

1st Dixie Harrison – Phenix City Intermediate

2nd Jalynn Braxton – Millbrook Middle School

3rd Rachel Dendy & Mary Baker – Redland Elementary

Broadcom MASTERS Award (certificate)

The Broadcom MASTERS is the national competition for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students who participate in affiliated science fairs. Our fair has the honor of selecting the top 10% of projects today to continue their journey to the national competition. Broadcom MASTERS nominees are invited to complete the online application, and are eligible for valuable prizes and awards including \$25,000, iPads, STEM summer camp, and more. This nomination is an honor, and distinguishes these projects as among the top 10% in the nation. From the complete list of entrants, the top 300 semi-finalists will be selected and announced next fall. We were very fortunate to have a student from our region selected as a Top 300 finalist in 2019! This list of 300 will be narrowed to 30 and those students who are selected will win an all-expense-paid trip to the Broadcom MASTERS finals from October 22 – October 27, 2021 in Washington DC.

This year's Broadcom MASTERS nominees are:

1. Kameron Reddick
2. Ariel Lumbatis
3. Lily Vilardi
4. Christopher Valeri
5. Jeffrey Torrence
6. Dixie Harrison

Students will receive a certificate and further instructions on how to complete their application for the Broadcom MASTERS program.

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Congratulations to all of our participants and winners!

A few notes for winners:

- 1.) This year's winners have received a variety of awards – some sponsored internally by Auburn University as well as others sponsored by other outside organizations. We will mail all certificates and medals to your school. Please note, some of these awards may have a specific requirement for follow up action (especially cash prizes). Directions and any additional forms, paperwork or instructions will be included in your award packet. Please pay close attention to all stated deadlines to avoid any issues.
- 2.) If you are advancing to the state science fair, we will send your paperwork to ASEF for you for SRC/IRB review. You will be contacted via email by the ASEF organizers with your specific day/time of your judges' interview and directions for logging into their Virtual Exhibit Hall – which is conveniently setup almost exactly like GEARSEF. We wish you the best of luck in your next level of competition!