

GEARSEF 2022 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 each and a certificate.

The winners are:

1st place – Gwendolyn Gomez-Santos – Phenix City Intermediate

2nd place – Alessandra Holland – Phenix City Intermediate

3rd place – Ella Burgess & Abigail Baxley – Highlands Elementary

AU Biological Sciences Award for Outstanding Poster in Animal and Plant Sciences

Sponsored by: The Auburn University Department of Biological Science

This award recognizes an outstanding poster in the Animal and Plant Sciences Category. The winner will receive a \$100 cash award and a certificate.

The winner is: Devin Flowers – Faine Elementary

AU Biological Sciences Award for Outstanding Poster in Medicine & Health Sciences

Sponsored by: The Auburn University Department of Biological Science

This award recognizes an outstanding poster in the Medicine and Health Sciences Category. The winner will receive a \$100 cash award and a certificate.

The winner is: Drake Randolph – Carver Magnet

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: Joseph Hathaway – Dothan Prep Academy

AU Department of Geosciences Award

Sponsored by: AU Department of Geosciences

This award recognizes creative expression of mastering the concept of Earth as a system. The winner will receive a certificate and \$50 cash award.

The winner is: Ella Stephens & Rowynn Sullivan – Highlands Elementary

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: Alexander Vasquez – Carver Magnet

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: Matthew Forsey, Delroy Williams & Peyton Danley – Selma Street Elementary

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: Annie Bao – East Samford

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: Maurice Robinson – Faine 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: Maurice Robinson – Faine 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: Saketh Pondugula – Drake Middle 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: Evan Nematpour – Morris Slingluff Elementary

Naval Science Award

Sponsored by: Office of Naval Research

This award recognizes up to 2 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. Evan Nematpour – Morris Slingluff Elementary
2. Hunter Denham – Eclectic Middle School

“Taking the Pulse of the Planet Award”

Sponsored by: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

This award will go to one individual selected from among all the categories whose research emphasizes NOAA’s mission of Science, Service, and Stewardship: “To Understand and predict changes in climate, weather, oceans, and coasts, to share that knowledge and information with others, and to conserve and manage coastal and marine ecosystems and resources.” The winner will receive a certificate, and a letter.

The winner is: Joseph LeFevre

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: Devin Flowers – Faine Elementary

Science Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM) Award

Sponsored by: The United States Air Force

This award recognizes one project from any category that demonstrates outstanding science or engineering. The winners will receive a certificate of achievement.

The winner is: Nick Frazier – 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: Ivan Ibarra – D.A. Smith Middle 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 today 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 receiving a category medal will automatically qualify to advance to the Alabama State Science Fair held virtually April 4-8, 2022. In addition, the 1st place winner of each category will receive a \$50 cash prize. Students, if I call your name please come forward to receive your award.

CATEGORY AWARDS

Category 100: Animal, Plant, Computational & Bioinformatics Sciences

1st – Maurice Robinson – Faine Elementary

2nd – Mary Gowen – Dothan Prep Academy

3rd – Devin Flowers – Faine Elementary

Category 200: Behavioral & Social Science

1st – Erin McKinley, Anna Steltenpohl, Nautica Knight – Highlands Elementary

2nd – Jack Nash – Millbrook Middle School

Category 300: Cellular & Molecular Biology (NOT OFFERED TO JR DIVISION)

Category 400: Chemistry

- 1st – Joseph Hathaway – Dothan Prep Academy
- 2nd – Kaylee Cochran – Millbrook Middle School
- 3rd – Logan Bracknell, Jacob Champlin, Marshal Craft – Highlands Elementary

Category 500: Engineering Mechanics

- 1st – Sterling Logsdon – Carver Magnet
- 2nd – Peyton Danley, Matthew Forsey & Delroy Williams – Selma Street Elementary
- 3rd – Evan Nematpour – Morris Slingsluff Elementary

Category 600: Energy: Sustainable Materials and Design

- 1st – Nick Frazier – Millbrook Middle School
- 2nd – Hunter Denham – Eclectic Middle School
- 3rd – Zeke Slingsluff, Barron Cowart, Houston Fetsko – Carver Magnet

Category 700: Earth & Environmental Sciences

- 1st – Annie Bao – East Samford
- 2nd – Joseph LeFevre – Wetumpka Middle School
- 3rd – Ava Biretz – D.A. Smith Middle School

Category 800: Medicine, Health & Translational Medical Science

- 1st – Olivia Hilliard & Aubrey Hess – Redland Elementary
- 2nd – Ethan Pemberton & Evan Dunn – Highlands Elementary
- 3rd – Dominic Vilardi – Wetumpka Middle School

Category 900: Physics, Astronomy, Mathematics & Materials Science

1st – Carter Bright – Carver Magnet

2nd – Braylin Culver – Highlands Elementary

3rd – Emily Colquitt – Redland Elementary

Category 1100: Robotic Systems & Communication Technology

No projects scored high enough to award a category placement award

Category 1200: Bio-Engineering

1st – Kaelyn Pettway – Carver Magnet School

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 this past fall! 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 27 – November 2, 2022 in Washington DC.

Please come forward as we call your name. The Broadcom MASTERS finalists from GEARSEF are:

1. Annie Bao
2. Cater Bright
3. Braylin Culver
4. Peyton Danley, Matthew Forsey & Delroy Williams
5. Nick Frazier
6. Mary Gowen
7. Joseph Hathaway
8. Joseph LeFevre
9. Sterling Logsdon
10. Erin McKinley, Anna Steltenpohl & Nautica Kinight

11. Maurice Robinson

12. Kaelyn Pettway

Congratulations to all our participants and winners today!

I have a few notes for winners:

- 1.) **CASH AWARDS** - Today's winners have received a variety of awards – some sponsored internally by Auburn University Departments and Organizations as well as others sponsored by other outside organizations. These awards may have a specific requirement for follow up action. Directions and any additional forms, paperwork or instructions are included in your award packet. **Please pay close attention to all stated deadlines. Failure to follow directions could result in forfeiture of your cash award.**

- 2.) **ASEF** - If you are advancing to the state science fair, **we will automatically advance your Scienceteer project paperwork and the Virtual Display Board you uploaded.** We have included instructions with your award about the advancement process. However, All ASEF participants must complete the following steps by March 18, 2022 in order to compete:
 - a. Log in to Scienceteer to confirm your intent to participate
 - b. Re-select your project category
 - c. Check to be sure your Virtual Display Board is a single slide in the correct dimensions in order to ensure it displays correctly in the Virtual Exhibit Hall. These dimensions are: 3456 x 2592. Students may make small changes to their display board and/or project to make improvements.
 - d. Pay your \$10 ASEF project registration fee.

- 3.) **BROADCOM MASTERS** - If you are a Broadcom MASTERS nominee, please be sure to pay close attention to the incentives listed for registration and deadlines for participation. **All winners are expected to complete this step!**