



Press Release

Allison Fore

Public and Intergovernmental Affairs Officer

312.751.6626

allison.fore@mwrdr.org

100 East Erie Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611

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Student scientists receive praise from MWRD



MWRD Commissioners Josina Morita and Kari Steele visit with science fair winners, Brianna Berry (left, "Wind Power") and Jiselle Mosquera (right, "What Is the Best Natural Pesticide?").

The best young minds in environmental sciences were honored during a ceremony and science fair exhibition at the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD). The MWRD Board of Commissioners recognized 50 middle school and high school students who won awards for their science fair projects at the Museum of Science and Industry for the Chicago Public School Science Fair and the Non-Public School Science Fair.

At these two fairs, MWRD scientists, engineers and other experts chose 50 winning projects in environmental sciences. The winners were honored during a boardroom ceremony, followed by a boat trip with their parents on the Chicago River and Lake Michigan. The students and families were provided an informative tour of the skyline and historic Chicago landmarks along the waterways that the MWRD monitors and protects. One of the highlights of the tour was the Nicholas J. Melas Centennial Fountain, which was built in 1989 to commemorate the 100th birthday of the MWRD.

"We were delighted to honor and host this year's science fair winners. They have demonstrated a curiosity and firm grasp for the issues that face our water environment and we look toward them to help us solve the many ecological challenges that our planet braces for," said MWRD President Mariyana Spyropoulos. "We hope the day was as much a highlight for them as it was for us." (continued)

2017 Science Fair Winners

Grade 7

Naiomi Arguelles, Budlong Elementary
Brianna Berry, Morgan Park High School
Nia Chetkovich, Edgebrook School
Kathleen Corrado, Saint Luke School
Claire Dooley, Saint Luke School
Ivy Huang, John C. Haines Elementary School
Sophia Iturralde, Andrew Jackson Language Academy
Anastasia Lamperis, Queen of Angels School
Litao Li, James Ward Elementary School
Jiayu Liang, John C. Haines Elementary School
Erin Martens, Ebinger Elementary School
Grace O'Brien, Saint Luke School
Madeleine Riggs, St. Paul of the Cross School
Rafael Rivera, St. Leonard School
Madison Smith, St. Monica Academy

Grade 8

Robert Black, St. Athanasius School
Sophia Cangialosi, Saint Maria Goretti School
Jessica Chaidez, Dawes School
Zachary Gillis, Immaculate Conception St. Joseph School
Vanessa Hensler, Burley Elementary School
Manru Huang, St. Therese Chinese Catholic School
Samuela Kosipa, St. Therese Chinese Catholic School
Arienne Lopez, St. Monica Academy
Emma Markham, Pope Francis Global Academy
Jiselle Mosquera, Saint Maria Goretti School
Emily Nelson, Kellogg Elementary School
Ryan O'Donnell, St. Monica Academy
George Pareti, St. Athanasius School
Ysabelle Pinpin, St. Constance School
Margaret Pry-Brown, Pope Francis Global Academy
Diego Rivera, Richard Henry Lee Elementary
Zoha Saadia, George B. Armstrong School for International Studies
Darnell Shields, Sayre Language Academy

Grade 9

Amjad Alzein, Universal School
Amalia Petropoulos, Mather High School
Yousef Suleiman, Universal School

Grade 10

Yasmeen Ahmad, Universal School
Kira Banks, Lindblom Math and Science Academy
Rahma Elabady, Universal School
Natalia Goral, Amundsen High School
Nada Hentati, Lincoln Park High School
Ivery Marquez, Von Steuben High School
Jacqueline Ortiz, Phoenix Military Academy
Kristine Schoenecker, Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences
Zain Shaikh, College Preparatory School of America
Robert Szymczyk, Lane Technical College Preparatory High School

Grade 11

Emma De Varenne, Von Steuben High School
Abdullah Ibrahim, Universal School
Amy Van de Velde, Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences

Grade 12

Joseph Palomares, Amundsen High School

Student scientists receive praise from MWRD *(continued)*



(Clockwise, from top left): MWRD Commissioner Timothy Bradford is with St. Athanasius School eighth grade student George Pareti whose project is "Think before you drink". Commissioner Martin Durkan is with James Ward Elementary School seventh grade student Litao Li, whose project was titled "Is hard water hard on the environment?". Commissioner Josina Morita is with Amundsen High School sophomore Natalia Goral, whose project was titled "What's in my water?". Commissioner Kari Steele is with St. Therese Chinese Catholic School eighth grade students Manru Huang and Samuela Kosipa, whose project was titled "Electromagnetic radiation effects on plant growth". President Mariyana

Spyropoulos is with Kellogg Elementary School eighth grade student Emily Nelson, whose project was titled "The sturdy stand: solving the problem of stable renewable energy". Commissioner David Walsh is with Von Steuben High School sophomore Ivery Marquez, whose project was titled "Trash to gas: biomass". Commissioner Debra Shore is with Andrew Jackson Language Academy seventh grade student Sophia Iturralde, whose project was titled "Dirt dangers". (Center): MWRD Chairman of Finance Frank Avila visits with Von Steuben High School junior Emma De Varenne, whose project was "Algae fuel".

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Recovering Resources, Transforming Water

Established in 1889, the MWRD (www.mwrld.org) is an award-winning, special purpose government agency responsible for wastewater treatment and stormwater management in Cook County, Illinois.