



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

# Press Release

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## MWRD Board of Commissioners honors student scientists



President Mariyana T. Spyropoulos with winning students (from l to r), Amy Vande Velde, Grace Vomacka, Alyannah Tasker-Lewis and Daniel Vogwill.

For more than a quarter of a century, employees of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) have judged science fair projects at the Museum of Science and Industry for the Chicago Public School Science Fair and the Non-Public School Science Fair. They understand the importance of encouraging young scientists.

At each of these two fairs, MWRD employees chose 25 winning projects in the field of ecology. The winners were honored during a board room ceremony, followed by a boat trip with their parents on the Chicago River and Lake Michigan. An informative tour of the waterways was given by the ship's docent, and an MWRD environmental specialist shared knowledge about MWRD history, property and marine equipment. 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. *(continued)*

### 2016 Science Fair Winners

#### Grade 7

Evan Auriemma, St. Giles School  
Abigail Branda, Franklin School  
Maria Byers, Edison Regional Gifted Center  
Matthew Coyle, St. Paul of the Cross School  
Benjamin Crotty, Burley School  
Katelin Cummens, St. Robert Bellarmine School  
Sean Forrester, St. Viator School  
Lucas Foszca, St. Giles School  
Kylie Jensen, St. Mary School, Buffalo Grove  
Julia Kozaczka, St. Maria Goretti School  
Arianne Lopez, St. Monica Academy  
Emma Markham, Our Lady of Victory School  
Cate Meyer, St. Paul of the Cross School  
Meaghan Orloski, St. Paul of the Cross School  
Dorothea Reames-Henry, Nettelhorst School  
Alyannah Tasker-Lewis, Providence/St. Mel School

#### Grade 8

Amjad Alzein, Universal School  
Shireen Aydogan, College Preparatory School of America  
Gwendolyn Casey, Peterson School  
Alexandria Di Brizzi, Divine Providence School  
Maeve Donlin, Ebinger School  
Eva Frank, St. Cornelius School  
Jace Guy, Dawes School  
Halie Hopman, Divine Providence School  
Anneliese Kelner, Audubon School  
Steven Li, Healy School  
Margaret Lothian, Prussing School  
Logan Maue, St. Mary School, Riverside  
Gianni Moran, St. Mary School, Riverside  
Heena Patel, St. Mary School, Riverside  
Maya Salinas, Salazar School  
Yousef Suleiman, Universal School  
Michelle Thran, Prussing School  
Grace Vomacka, St. Mary School, Riverside  
Alyssa Wodnicki, Edgebrook School

# MWRD Board of Commissioners honors student scientists *(continued)*

“The Science Fair board room ceremony and boat trip are always one of the highlights of the year for our commissioners,” said MWRD President Mariyana Spyropoulos. “This event gives us the opportunity to see young scientists experimenting in environmental fields. They are our future, and we are happy to applaud them and encourage their work.”

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MWRD Chairman of Finance, Frank Avila, presented certificates to winning science fair students, including Erika Anderson (from l to r), Evan Auriemma, Davora Buchanan, Helena Patel and Lucas Foszca.



MWRD Commissioner Kari K. Steele presented certificates to winning science fair students, including Sean Forrester (from l to r), Margaret Lothian, Michelle Thran, Logan Maue and Cate Meyer.



MWRD Commissioner Cynthia M. Santos presented certificates to science fair winners, including Christian Cooper (from l to r), Matthew Coyle, Katelin Cummins and Anusha Ebrahim.

## Grade 9

Emily Mun, Lincoln Park High School  
Zain Shaikh, College Preparatory of America

## Grade 10

Davora Buchanan, Morgan Park High School  
Hoda Mahmaud, Universal School  
Jonathan Poole, Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences  
Amy Vande Velde, Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences  
Daniel Vogwill, Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences

## Grade 11

Erika Anderson, Von Steuben High School  
Mohammed Christi, Von Steuben High School  
Anusha Ebrahim, Whitney M. Young Magnet High School  
Kiana Gomez, Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences  
Joseph Palomares, Amundsen High School

## Grade 12

Christian Cooper, Cooper Academy  
Josemanuel Hernandez, Curie High School



MWRD Commissioner Debra Shore presented certificates to winning science fair students, including Kiana Gomez (from l to r), Jacé Guy and Anneliese Kelter.



MWRD Commissioner David J. Walsh presented certificates to science fair winners, including Gwendolyn Casey (from l to r), Maria Byers and Jonathan Poole.

## Recovering Resources, Transforming Water

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