



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Press Release

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Environmental Science Fair projects earn students honors from the MWRD



President Mariyana Spyropoulos with (L-R) Benediktas Bieliauskas, whose project title was "Do Roots Matter?"; Jennifer Fisher, "Impede or Succ-Seed?"; and Erik Reykjalin, "To Plow or Not To Plow."



Vice President Barbara McGowan with (L) Brandon Rebolledo, "The Trash Collecting Robot," and Ewan Evans, "Air Raid!"

Students in grades 7 through 12 from throughout Chicago who won awards from the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) for their environmental-related projects had a rainy, yet informative tour of the Chicago Area Waterways during a special day hosted by the MWRD Board of Commissioners.

The students presented their projects in front of their families, MWRD Commissioners and staff and received certificates. *(continued)*

2018 Science Fair Winners

Grade 7

Siyaa Bhargava, St. Mary School – Buffalo Grove

Quinn Costello, St. Paul of the Cross School

Allen Harvey, St. Genevieve School

Alika Nicosia-Stone, Providence St. Mel

Brandon Rebolledo, St. Genevieve School

Erik Reykjalin, St. Monica Academy

Dominic Vecchio, St. Paul of the Cross School

Grade 8

Naiomi Arguelles, Budlong Elementary School

Benediktas Bieliauskas, St. Mary Riverside School

Alexandra Bomhorsche, St. Constance School

Jennifer Fisher, St. Athanasius School

Ivy Huang, Haines Elementary School

Isabella Krause, St. Mary Riverside School

Sanjana Kuchibhotla, Whitney M. Young Magnet H.S.

Jiayu Liang, Haines Elementary School

Erin Martens, Ebinger Elementary School

Audrey Miller, Andrew Jackson Language Academy

Mathew Murphy, St. Monica Academy

Grace Patterson, Queen of Angels Chicago

Emily Pawelko, St. Constance School

Anjali Prabhakar, Andrew Jackson Language Academy

Brody Pribyl, John James Audubon Elementary School

Brandon Tan, Healy Elementary School

Nicholas Wilkerson, St. Viator Elementary School

Cullen Worth, St. Athanasius School

Grade 9

Ruwaida Khadeer, College Prep School of America

Malik Mohamed, Universal School

Manzour Syed, Universal School

Leila Zarzour, Universal School

Grade 10

Aneeza Ahmad, College Prep School of America

Naomi Bass, Lincoln Park H.S.

Leslie Constantino, Marine Leaders H.S.

Ewan Evans, Von Steuben H.S.

Maaria Firdaus, College Prep School of America

Steven Li, Walter Payton College Prep

Aiman Nawaz, College Prep School of America

Maeghan O'Laughlin, Chicago Agricultural H.S.

Amalia Petropoulos, Mather H.S.

Sidra Rehman, College Prep School of America

Grade 11

Jamya Crayton, Benito Juarez High School

Kristina Fiedler, Lane Technical College Prep H.S.

Natalia Goral, Amundsen H.S.

Kristine Schoenecker, Chicago Agricultural H.S.

Tanzanikia Taylor, Michele Clark Magnet H.S.

Grade 12

Colleen Curtin, Chicago Agricultural H.S.

Gustavo Perez, Horizon Science Academy McKinley Park

Daniel Puczko, Lane Technical College Prep H.S.

Robert Szymczyk, Lane Technical College Prep H.S.

Amy VandeVelde, Chicago Agricultural H.S.

Daniel Vogwill, Chicago Agricultural H.S.

Environmental Science Fair projects earn students honors *(cont.)*



Commissioner Debra Shore with (L-R) Anjali Prabhakar, "Acid Attack in Our Oceans," and Ivy Huang, "Wax Worms vs. Plastic Bags."



Commissioner Kari K. Steele, center, with (L-R) Sanjana Kuchibhotla, "Effects of Detergents on Microplastics," and Manzour Syed, "Biodiesel and Thermal Energy."



Commissioner David Walsh, far right, with (L-R): Ruwaida Khadeer, "Effect of Anabaena on salvinia Minima's absorption of crude oil;" Daniel Vogwill, "Effects of COR on Drought Stress in Zea Mays," and Leila Zarzour, "Thermal Haline Circulation."



Commissioner Josina Morita, center, with Mathew Murphy, "Up in Flames."



Commissioner Martin Durkan, center, with (L-R) Sidra Rebman, "Mitigating Pollution and Acidification," and Maaria Firdaus, "A Solution to Water Pollution."



Commissioner Ken Dunkin with Malik Mohamed, "Biodiesel & Thermal Energy."

Immediately following the Board room ceremony, the winners and their parents took a guided tour on the Chicago River. They learned about the history and role of the waterways in managing stormwater. Among the tour highlights was the Nicholas J. Melas Centennial Fountain, which was built in 1989 to commemorate the 100th birthday of the MWRD.

"We appreciate every student and every family that works on these projects," said MWRD President Mariyana Spyropoulos. "We are always amazed by

their ingenuity and hope the day was as much a highlight for them as it was for us."

"As a chemist I appreciate the work that goes into studying the environment," said Commissioner Kari K. Steele. "Today's visit by these students is always an exciting time. Sharing information with future leaders in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math topics provides us with a great resource for future employees."

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Recovering Resources, Transforming Water

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