



## Da Vinci Science Center Announces 2024 STEAM Award Recipients

By Caroline Scutt

ALLENTOWN, PA. March 21, 2024 – Da Vinci Science Center announced its 2024 STEAM Awards recipients, honoring students and teachers for their outstanding projects and unique contributions in STEAM – Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math.

The Da Vinci Science Center STEAM Educator Awards celebrate K-12 educators who engage students in figuring out explanations of real-world phenomena and designing solutions to real problems. Teachers are awarded \$1,000 grants for classroom supplies or programs.

This year's educator awardees are:

Christie Schlaner, 8th grade science teacher, Orefield Middle School, Parkland School District

Amy Putlock, school music teacher, Broughal Middle School

Jennifer Gross, 7th grade science teacher, Trexler Middle School

Student awardees are

Rayna Malhotra, senior, Moravian Academy Upper School

Ellyn Wong, senior, Nazareth Area High School

Sudenaz Mohac, senior, Nazareth Area High School

Wenly Rodriguez Hiraldo, junior, Louis E. Dieruff High School, Allentown

Natalya Ding, junior, Southern Lehigh High School

In addition to joining a long list of notable winners, each of the student honorees will receive a \$2,000 scholarship for college, or for honorees in grades 9-11, for participation in a STEAM program of their choice throughout the school year. Two examples are the Yale Young Global Scholars program and Summer Pre-College Programs at Stephens Institute of Technology.

All award recipients receive a beautiful stained-glass sculpture designed by artist Octavia Pena and provided through the generosity of Beall Fowler.

The STEAM Scholarship Awards have celebrated more than 200 students and teachers over the last 26 years. This year's awards are made possible thanks to the support from Cedar Crest College; PPL; Gross McGinley, LLP; Lutron; RMG Insurance; WFMZ, and Wojdak Government Relations.

These award recipients and their accomplishments are emblematic of what happens when creative minds follow their curiosity and think like scientists, engineers, and artists; and connect what they are learning to their own lives and their career aspirations. The 2025 STEAM Awards Celebration will be held at the new Da Vinci Science Center at PPL Pavilion in downtown Allentown!



## Undergraduate Research Day in Harrisburg

By Rep. Joe Emrick

HARRISBURG - As a proud graduate of Lycoming College, I had the honor to review research from two Lycoming College seniors who participated in the Undergraduate Research Day poster conference in Harrisburg this week.

Brendan Blackson's research focused on, "Rural Reconstruction: A Glimpse into the Pickens Plantation & the Life of Freedmen in Rural Hale County, Alabama," Diedre LaBlanc's research was titled, "Monitoring Responses to Agricultural Best Management in the Wolf Run Watershed."

It was a great opportunity to speak with Brendan and Diedre and share our experiences at Lycoming.

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