



ONE OF THE FOUR CARNEGIE MUSEUMS OF PITTSBURGH

MEDIA ALERT | For Immediate Release
Sept. 10, 2018

Contact: Connie George
Mobile: 412.638.7029

GeorgeC@CarnegieScienceCenter.org

Contact: Madelyn Dinnerstein
Office: 412.237.3427 / Mobile: 412.334.4017
DinnersteinM@CarnegieScienceCenter.org

FIVE PITTSBURGH-AREA STUDENTS NAMED TO BROADCOM MASTERS® TOP 300

STUDENTS HONORED BY PRESTIGIOUS STEM COMPETITION FOR PROJECTS IN COVESTRO PITTSBURGH REGIONAL SCIENCE & ENGINEERING FAIR

PITTSBURGH, Sept. 10, 2018 – Five students who participated in Carnegie Science Center’s Covestro Pittsburgh Regional Science & Engineering Fair (PRSEF) are among the Top 300 in the eighth annual Broadcom MASTERS, the nation’s premier science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) competition for middle school students.

Broadcom MASTERS, a program founded and produced by the Society for Science & the Public, seeks to inspire young scientists, engineers, and innovators to solve the grand challenges of the 21st century. MASTERS stands for Math, Applied Science, Technology, and Engineering Rising Stars. The Top 300 represent the top sixth-, seventh-, and eighth-grade projects entered in Society-affiliated science fairs around the country.

Thirty of the 300 students will be selected as finalists by a nationally ranked panel of scientists, engineers and educators on Sept. 18. Those 30 students will travel to Washington, D.C., to participate in a four-day STEM competition for more than \$100,000 in awards and prizes.

The Pittsburgh-area students who are in the Top 300 are:

- Eleanor Barth-Wu, The Campus School of Carlow University, Pittsburgh, Grade 8, “Can Indium Be Extracted from Used Touch Screens?”

- Arvind Seshan, Dorseyville Middle School, Fox Chapel Area School District, Grade 7, “Leveraging Directional Antenna-Based Wireless Signal Localization to Aid Search and Rescue Efforts.”
- Olina Mukherjee, Kentucky Avenue School, Pittsburgh, Grade 6, “Complex Social Behavior in Madagascar Hissing Cockroaches.” Olina also received a Carnegie Science Award in May.
- Anna Spalvieri, St. Kilian Parish School, Seven Fields, Grade 8, “Eye See It Differently.”
- Jackson Zemek, Winchester Thurston School, Pittsburgh, Grade 8, “Harvester Robot.”

The schools and grades listed for the students are those they were in when they participated in the Covestro PRSEF in March.

The Top 300 competitors were chosen from a pool of 2,537 applicants from 48 states, two territories, and one Department of Defense School. The applicants were evaluated by a panel of distinguished scientists, engineers, and educators. They were judged on the creativity and originality of their science fair project, their ability to engage in analysis of data, and their understanding of STEM principles as they relate to the real world.

“We are proud and delighted to have five participants from the Covestro Pittsburgh Regional Science & Engineering Fair included in the Broadcom MASTERS Top 300 competitors,” said Stu McNiell, Manager of STEM Programs for Carnegie Science Center. “These students completed creative and innovative projects that impressed the Covestro PRSEF judges, and it is exciting that their work also has been recognized by the initial judging panel for the prestigious Broadcom MASTERS competition.”

Top 300 students will receive a prize package with an award ribbon, a semifinalist certificate; a Broadcom MASTERS backpack; a Broadcom MASTERS decal; a specialized Invention Journal, courtesy of The Lemelson Foundation; a one-year subscription to Wolfram Mathematics software, courtesy of Wolfram Research; and a one-year family digital subscription to *Science News* magazine. To recognize the success that teachers play in the success of their students, each designated teacher will receive a Broadcom MASTERS tote bag and a one-year digital subscription to *Science News*.

About Carnegie Science Center

Carnegie Science Center is dedicated to inspiring learning and curiosity by connecting science and technology with everyday life. By making science both relevant and fun, the Science Center’s goal is to increase science literacy in the region and motivate young people to seek careers in science and technology. One of the four Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh, the Science Center is Pittsburgh’s premier science exploration destination, reaching more than 700,000 people annually through its hands-on exhibits, camps, classes, and off-site education programs.

Accessibility: Features for All

Carnegie Science Center welcomes all visitors. We work to assist visitors with disabilities in obtaining reasonable and appropriate accommodations, and in supporting equal access to services, programs, and activities. We welcome visitors in wheelchairs on the deck of our USS Requin (SS 481) submarine. Below-deck visits require full mobility. Hearing assistance devices are available for The Rangos Giant Cinema. Please ask when you buy your ticket.

Please note that requests for accommodations should be made at least two weeks prior to your visit. For specific questions about wheelchairs, strollers, or other programmatic or equipment needs, see the ticket counter located on the first floor of the main building or contact Customer Service at 412.237.1641 or info@carnegiesciencecenter.org. Please contact Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh's Accessibility Coordinator with concerns regarding accessibility for visitors with disabilities at the museums. On weekdays, call 412.622.6578 or email accessibility@carnegiemuseums.org.

About Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh

Established in 1895 by Andrew Carnegie, Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh is a collection of four distinctive museums: Carnegie Museum of Art, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Carnegie Science Center, and The Andy Warhol Museum. In 2017, the museums reached more than 1.4 million people through exhibitions, educational programs, outreach activities, and special events.

About Society for Science & the Public

Society for Science & the Public is dedicated to the achievement of young scientists in independent research and to public engagement in science. Established in 1921, the Society is a nonprofit whose vision is to promote the understanding and appreciation of science and the vital role it plays in human advancement. Through its world-class competitions, including the Regeneron Science Talent Search, the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair, and the Broadcom MASTERS, and its award-winning magazine, *Science News* and *Science News for Students*, Society for Science & the Public is committed to inform, educate, and inspire. Learn more at www.societyforscience.org and follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Snapchat (Society4Science).

###