

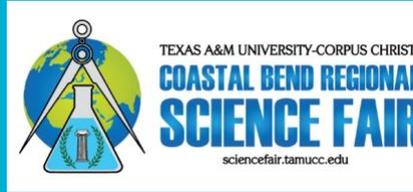


TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-CORPUS CHRISTI

**COASTAL BEND REGIONAL  
SCIENCE FAIR**

[sciencefair.tamucc.edu](http://sciencefair.tamucc.edu)

**February 13, 2026**



# Secondary Awards Special Awards 2026

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American Psychological Association

**David Lee, Caydenn Angeles,  
Naden Ramirez**

W. B. Ray High School



Association for Women Geoscientists

**Lizbeth Guerrero**

San Diego High School



Citadel Securities Innovation Prize - Jr. High

**Margaret Simpson**

Kaffie Middle School



Citadel Securities Innovation Prize - Sr. High

# Saara & Jaiya Bindingnavele

W. B. Ray High School



**Lemelson Foundation**

# **Sophia Gonzales and Samantha Hernandez**

West Oso Junior High

**NASA Earth System Science Award**

**Orli Pollack**

W. B. Ray High School



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

# Samhitha Buchireddy

Veterans Memorial High School



# Naval Science Award

## Senior Division

Hazel Ekici

Nathanial Belcher

## Junior Division

Isaiah Aleman

Nivan Karthick

Xander Wilems

Lily Aguilera



**Regeneron Biomedical Science Award**

**Sharmada Palakurthi**

W. B. Ray High School



Ricoh USA, Inc.

# Claire Smith

W. B. Ray High School



**Society for In Vitro Biology**

# **Armando Ortega & Adelina Bell**

Kaufer Early College High School



**U.S. Metric Association**

# **Unal McLauchlan**

W. B. Ray High School



**U.S. Air Force**

**Maria Mahmood**

**Aylin Garza**

**Anderson Dye**

W.B. Ray High School

**Ethan Cronkite**

Veterans Memorial High School



**Naval Science Award - Jr**

**Isaiah Aleman**

**Xander Wilems**

**Lily Aguilera**

Kaffie Middle School

**Nivan Karthick**



**Naval Science Award - Jr**

**Hazel Ekici**

Veterans Memorial High School

**Nathaniel Belcher**

High School



Water Environment Federation/Stockholm Junior Water Prize

# Armando Ortega & Adelina Bell

Kaufer Early College High School

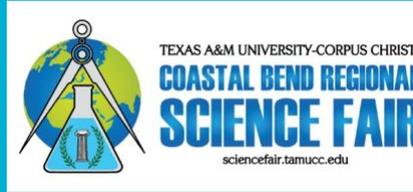


Yale Science & Engineering Association

# Saara & Jaiya Bindingnavele

W.B. Ray High School





# Grades 6-8 Category Awards 2026

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## Animal Science (ANIM)

**Third: Liam Rodriguez**

Paw Preference

Kaffie Middle School

**Second: Mariana Garza**

Peanut Power

Lucy Aragon Junior High School

**First: Andrea Conkey**

A Mystery Beneath the Glow

Santa Gertrudis Middle School



# Behavioral and Social Sciences (BEHA)



## **Third: Madelynn Carrillo**

Serve It up!

Grant Middle School

## **Second: Ana Wilcox**

Hocus Focus: How does being distracted affect functional mobility?

Baker Middle School

## **First: Sofia Amaya**

The Color of Recall: A Memory Experiment

Santa Gertrudis

## Biochemistry (BCHM)

### **Second: Julie Casas**

Hydration Hero: Defending Skin Against Eczema  
Lucy Aragon Junior High School

### **First: Sophia Silvia**

Got Electrolytes?  
Ricardo Middle School



# Biomedical & Health Sciences (BMED)

**Third: Miles Maldonado**

BPM

Santa Gertrudis

**Second: Aditi Chakilam**

Which Fruit is the Fittest?

Baker Middle School

**First: Mia De La Garza**

Radiation Chasers

Kaffie Middle School



# Biomedical Engineering (ENBM)



## **Second: Matthew Hempstead**

How Does Running Duration Affect Heart Rate Recovery?

Kaffie Middle School

## **First: Sebastian Martinez**

The Future of Diabetes Care: Inside an Artificial Pancreas System

Baker Middle School

# Cellular & Molecular Biology (CELL)

## **Third: Jordan Garcia**

The Color of Your Eyes: What's the Secret  
Baker Middle School

## **Second: Addison Moiser**

Strawberry DNA  
Moreno Junior High

## **First: Mohammad Qadri**

The Effects of Magnetic Fields on Living Organisms  
Santa Gertrudis Middle School



# Chemistry (CHEM)

**Third: Jade Wilhelm**

Slime Science: Why pH matter

St. Phillips Episcopal Middle School

**Second: Hannah Charlebois**

Crime Scene Secrets

Kaffie Middle School

**First: Lee Garcia & Jon Gonzalez**

From liquid to foam in seconds

Ben Bolt ISD Middle School



# Earth and Environmental Sciences(EAEV)

**Third: Emma Milam**

It's Salty

Calallen ISD Middle School

**Second: Leonardo Alanis**

Bays to Beaches

Kaffie Middle School

**First: Connor McIntyre**

Effects of Desalination Plant Waste on Marine Life 2: Tidal Effects On Waste Output

William Adam Middle School



## Embedded Systems (EBED)

**Second: Nathan Maggard**

The Spud-tacular Spark

Lucy Aragon Junior High School



**First: Colton Schmidt**

How does distance affect wireless signal strength

Baker Middle School

# Energy: Sustainable Materials & Design (EGSD)



**First: Aiden Kim**

Influence of Dielectric Material, Electrode, and Water Properties  
on the Efficiency of Solid-Liquid Triboelectric Nanogenerators

Baker Middle School

# Engineering Technology: Statics & Dynamics (ETSD)

## **Third Place: Nivan Karthick**

Drip Detective AI

Flour Bluff Intermediate

## **Second Place: Xander Wilems**

Weight vs Flight Time: A Study of Drone Efficiency

Kaffie Middle School

## **First Place: Beau Durkin**

How does Infill Percentage Affect the Buoyancy Density of 3D Prints

Baker Middle School



# Environmental Engineering (ENEV)

## **Third: Elizabeth Arredondo**

Clear vs. Fast

Calallen Middle School

## **Second: Leonardo Bayardo Vasquez**

The Eco/Pot: Can Soil & Simple Metals Power on LED?

Kaffie Middle School

## **First: Zinachidi Mbadugha**

A Plastic Problem: Discovering How Temperature Affects Microplastics in  
Bottle Water

Baker Middle School



# Materials Science (MATS)

**Third: Jack Rodrigue**

superior soccer shoe

Kaffie Middle School

**Second: Amelia Castorena**

Adkins Middle School

**First: Karolyn Aguirre**

Kaffie Middle School



# Microbiology (MCRO)

**Third: Leandro Mena**

Parasite Palace

Baker Middle School

**Second: Maddison Zepeta**

Algae Growth with Light

Cunningham @ South Park Middle School

**First: Liliana Martinez**

Plankton under pressure: Does pH rule the pool?

Kaffie Middle School



# Mathematics (MATH)

**Third: Margaret Simpson**

Calculating the Age of the Universe

Kaffie Middle School

**Second: Parker McDaniel**

The Mathematics of Density

Kaffie Middle School

**First: Warren Sellers**

Escape the Function!

Grant Middle School



# Physics & Astronomy (PHYS)



## **Third:Salvatore Colicci**

Seeing in 3D Measuring Distance with Parallax  
Grant

## **Second:Victoria Fuentes**

Star Light, Star Bright: How does light intensity change with distance?  
Moreno Jr. High

## **First:Lexi Rodriguez**

Too Cool for School or Hot Stuff? How Temperature Affects Magnet Strength  
Kaffie Middle School

# Plant Science (PLNT)

## **Third: Claire Meldrum**

Growth of Hydroponics and Traditional Plants

Kaffie MS

## **Second: Madeleine Bertheau**

Seeds on a Page: Going Green with Upcycled Paper

Kaffie MS

## **First: Alexia Fuentes**

Three Plant Growing Methods That Do Not Use Soil; Aeroponics, Aquaponics, and Hydroponics: Which Will Grow Best?

Moreno ISD



# Robotics & Intelligent Machine (ROBO)

**Third:Asten Branch**

Marstery

West Oso Jr. High

**Second:Evelyn Higgins**

I Spy AI

Baker Middle School

**First:Isaiah Aleman**

Origami Robot Gripper

Kaffie Middle School



# Software Design (SFTD)

## **Third: Nickolas Berry**

How Will It Run?

Baker Middle School

## **Second Place: Wyatt Schrank**

How Fast is Too Fast? Guessing Passwords with Python

Calallen ISD Middle School

## **First Place: Ellyse Day**

Automated Orbital Debris Trajectory and Capture System

Baker Middle School



# Technology Enhances the Art (TECA)

## **Second: Krista Garcia**

Spot the difference of Real or AI  
Kaffie Middle School

## **First: Lily Aguilera**

Comparing Accuracy of AI Detection Between Age Groups  
Kaffie Middle School



# Translational Medical Science (TMED)

**Third: Kylie Luna & Syrah Luan**

The Race to Good Health

Lucy Aragon Middle School

**Second: Cooper Preston**

The Beat of Our Hearts

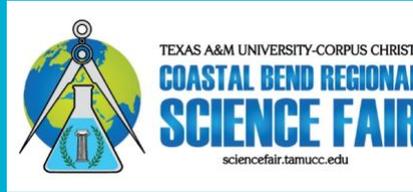
Kaffie Middle School

**First: Annabelle Cronkite**

Does Exercise Type Affect Oxygen Levels?

Kaffie Middle School





# Grades 9-12 Category Awards 2025

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# Animal Science (ANIM)

**First:**

**Armando Ortega & Adelina Bell**

Effects of Water Source on In Vitro Ruminant  
Digestion of Bermudagrass

Kaufer Early College High School



## Behavioral & Social Sciences (BEHA)



**Second:** David Lee, Cayden Angeles, Naden Ramirez

**Pause for Thought**

W. B. Ray High School

**First:** Mario Barrera

**Refreshing Reactions**

San Diego High School

## Biochemistry (BCHM)

**Second: Penelope De Los Santos & Jaslene Munoz**

The Cool Blue Light of Luminol

San Diego High School

**First: Ethan Cronkhite**

A Comparative Study of E.coli's response to analgesic medication

Veterans Memorial High School



## Biomedical & Health Sciences (BMED)

### **Second: Myles Resendez**

Lotion vs Dry Skin

Ben Bolt-Palito Blanco High School

### **First: Claire Loya & Mason Perez**

Sugar Showdown

Ben Bolt-Palito Blanco High School



# Biomedical Engineering (ENBM)

**First: Maria Mahmood**

Remodeling Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement:  
Mechanistic, Computational, and Material Pathways to  
Next-Generation Performance

W.B. Ray High School



## Cellular & Molecular Biology (CELL)

**Third:**

**Eliana Sanchez**

Beyond the Ink: The Genetics of Fingerprints

Ben Bolt - Palito Blanco High School

**Second:**

**Yesenia Cabrera**

Battle of the Beauty Products

Ben Bolt - Palito Blanco High School

**First:**

**Annabelle Taylor & Sarveen Vatankhah**

Enhancing Cellular Defense:

Ray High School



## Chemistry (CHEM)



**Third:**

**Sophia Trevino**

How does Temperature Affect Reaction Rate

Ben Bolt-Palito Blanco High School

**Second:**

**Eva Rivadenyra & Kyleen Vasquez**

Citrus Volcano

Ben Bolt-Palito Blanco High School

**First:**

**Anderson Dye**

How does pH Affect Catalyst Breakdown of Catalase Using  
Beef Livers

W. B. Ray High School

# Computational Biology & Bioinformatics (CBIO)

**First:**

**Soaham Kumar**

Development of Non-Invasive Imaging  
Biomarkers for Predicting Immunotherapy  
Response in Breast Cancer Patients  
Veterans Memorial High School



# Earth & Environmental Sciences (EAEV)



**Third: Lizbeth Guerrero**

The Ability of Earthworms 2: Worms vs. Manure  
San Diego High School

**Second: Samhitha Buchireddy**

Effects of Salinity Exposure Rate on Physiological  
Response  
Veterans Memorial High School

**First: Orli Pollack**

Wind Tidal Wonders: Tracking The Effects of Extreme  
W.B. Ray High School

# Embedded Systems (EBED)

**First:**

**Rene (RJ) Gonzalez**  
Skimming  
San Diego High School



# Energy: Sustainable Materials and Design (EGSD)

**First:**

**Claire Smith**

Ancient Innovation, Modern Application: Testing Architectural  
Design for Passive Thermal Efficiency

W.B. Ray High School



# Engineering Technology: Statics and Dynamics (ETSD)



**Third: Micah Martinez & Francis Ezekiel Alpiche**

The Affects of Aerodynamics

School of Science & Technology

**Second: Hunter Crabtree & Rhiley Ramirez**

Flotation Expectations

Ben Bolt - Palito Blanco High School

**First: Saara & Jaiya Bindingnavele**

Walking for Power: Using Math to Determine the Optimized Thickness for Maximum Energy Output in a Piezoelectric Shoe Sole

W.B. Ray High School

# Environmental Engineering (ENEV)



**Second:**

**Matthew Caanen**

How Vegetation affects Urban Surface Temperature  
on NDV-LST Analysis  
Alice High School

**First:**

**Tanishka Sinha**

From Plastic to Plates: Food Contamination Driven by  
Microplastics Degradation  
Veterans Memorial High School

# Material Science (MATS)



**Second:**

**Benjamin Ragland**

Understanding Corrosion: Analyzing the Effects of Corrosion Metals  
Commonly Used in Construction Electrical System  
Alice High School

**First:**

**Aylin Garza**

Powering Up Now Electrode Materials Affect Battery Output  
W. B. Ray High School

# Mathematics (MATH)



**Third: Aiden Garcia & Kaylee Munoz**

Human vs. AI

San Diego High School

**Second: Hazel Ekici**

Resolution Limits of Fourier Transform Analysis in Low-Frequency Acoustics

Veterans Memorial High School

**First: Xam Eroy**

Mostly Harmless: an Innovative Habitability Testing Framework for Planets

W.B. Ray High School

# Physics & Astronomy (PHYS)

**Third:**

**Nathaniel Belcher**

Electrostatic Propulsion Turbine

San Diego High School



**Second:**

**Luke Cazalas**

Sound

W.B. Ray High School

**First:**

**Unal McLauchlan**

Filtering Caps

W.B. Ray High School

# Plant Sciences (PLNT)

**Third:**

**Hyzeah Salinas**

Bean Curious: How Solutions Affect Germination

Ben Bolt-Palito Blanco High School



**Second:**

**Robert Luna**

The differences in pH, color intensity & stability in

Organic vs. Artificial Dyes

San Diego High School

**First:**

**Abigail Voinov**

Radish Tears

W. B. Ray High School

# Robotics & Intelligent Machines (ROBO)

**First:**

**Eli Walker**

Predicting Healthcare Complications with  
Machine Learning  
Alice High School



# Software Design (SFTD)

**Third:**

**Aman Pilehvari**

Quantbot - Bot-Powered Stock Market  
Analysis & Prediction System  
London High School



**Second:**

**Trustea Davila**

CybersecurAlty: Determining Whether Common Artificial Intelligence Systems  
Provide Enough Protection Enough Protection for Social Medial Accounts  
San Diego High School

**First:**

**Hailey & Dev Patel**

Can Browser Fingerprinting Identify Users When Cookies Are Off?  
Santa Gertrudis Academic High School

# Technology Enhances the Arts (TECA)

**First:**

**Izabella Cisneros & Yamileth Vazquez**

Bot or Not

School of Science and Technology



# Translational Medical Science (TMED)



**Second:**

**Isabella Nunez, Alexia Barerra, Sofia Guerrero**

Stepping into Science

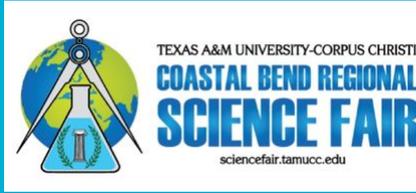
San Diego High School

**First:**

**Sharmada Palakurthi**

Targeting Dysfunctional Proteins in the Brain: A Promising Therapeutic Strategy for Clearance and Prevention of Toxic Proteins in Alzheimer's Disease

W. B. Ray High School



# Port Authority Distinguished Project Awards

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# Port Authority Distinguished Project Awards

## Senior Division

Xam Eroy

Orli Pollack

Soaham Kumar

David Lee, Caydenn Angeles, Naden

Ramirez

Claire Smith

## Junior Division

Leonardo Alanis

Lexi Rodriguez

Alexis Phan

Ellyse Day

Zinachidi Mbadugha

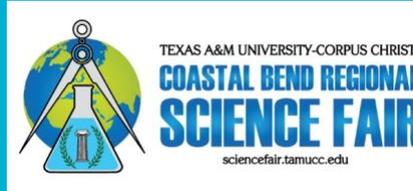
Andrea Conkey

Connor McIntyre

Aiden Kim

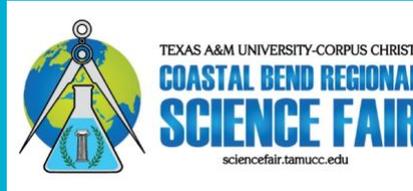
Sebastian Martinez

Alexia Fuentes



**Best in Division - Junior**

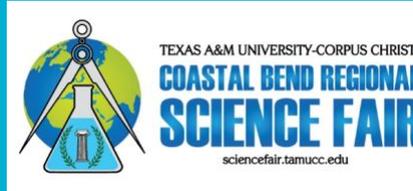
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# **Annabelle Cronkhite**

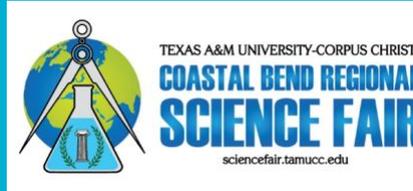
## **Kaffie Middle School**

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**Best in Division - Senior**

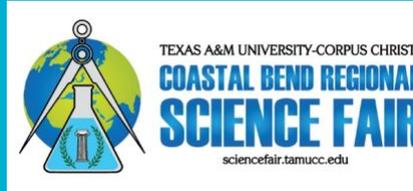
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# Sharmada Palakurthi

## W. B. Ray High School

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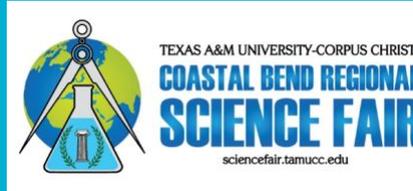


# Projects Advancing to State

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## **Advancing to State**

**All first and second place projects are advancing to the state science fair.**



# **Thermo-Fisher Scientific Junior Innovators Challenge Awards**

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# Thermo-Fisher Awards

Aiden Kim

Sophia Silva

Andrea Conkey

Sofia Amaya

Mohammad Qadri

Lee Garcia & Jon Gonzalez

Lexi Rodriguez

Beau Durkin

Karolyn Aguirre

Warren Sellers

Liliana Martinez

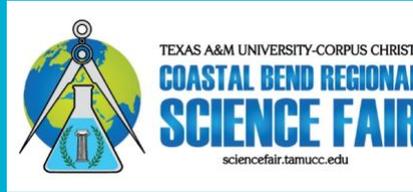
Lily Aguilera

Isaiah Aleman

Annabelle Cronkhite

Alexia Fuentes





**ISEF**

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**ISEF**

## **Soaham Kumar**

Development of Non-Invasive Imaging Biomarkers for  
Predicting Immunotherapy Response in Breast Cancer  
Patients

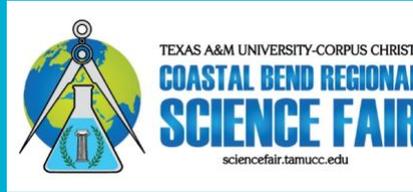
Veterans Memorial High School

## **Sharmada Palakurthi**

Targeting Dysfunctional Proteins in the Brain: A  
Promising Therapeutic Strategy for Clearance and  
Prevention of Toxic Proteins in Alzheimer's Disease

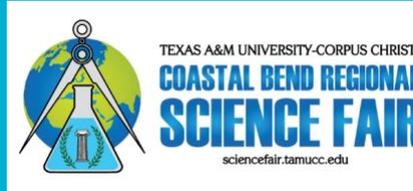
W. B. Ray High School





**Best in Show**

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# **Soaham Kumar**

## **Veterans Memorial High School**

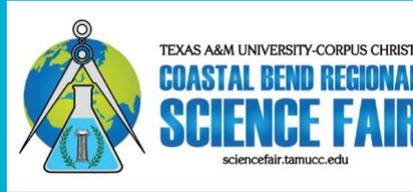
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# TXSEF 2026 College Station, Texas

## March 27-28, 2026

- All projects must be approved by us and sent to state SRC By Sunday, February 16, 2026.
- A virtual board and video are submitted during state registration.
- Please monitor your STEM Wizard messages! TXSEF will be messaging you.





**Thank-You!**

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