

Special Awards 2024



**Metropolitan
SCIENCE &
ENGINEERING FAIR**

Founded 1980 | Omaha, NE

Special Awards are awards that are judged according to guidelines from the donors.

12 local and national organizations, businesses, and universities donated over \$3,000 in cash, memberships and materials to recognize projects that align with each award sponsor's mission and goals.

Society of Women Engineers Omaha

The Society of Women Engineers is the world's largest advocate and catalyst for change for women in engineering and technology.

The local chapter of SWE has selected five Outstanding Female Engineers with a prize of a gift card

There are four 2nd Place projects

Anna Dickerson	McMillan Middle School
Aishwarya Pandharpurkar	Elkhorn Valley View Middle School
Avery Moores	Zoo Academy
Alyssa Moheiser & Hadley McComas	Duchesne Academy

First place, Junior Division

Bella Bowers & Natasha Sysouvanh	Buffett MS
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First place, Senior Division

Madison Neeley & Addisen Elsaesser	Zoo Academy
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American Chemical Society-Omaha Chapter

ACS is one of the world's largest scientific societies and the premier home of chemistry professionals.

The local chapter has selected four projects for the Excellence in Chemistry, including a cash prize and beaker mug

Honorable Mention

Fran Brannen	Omaha Central High
Jasmine O'Connor	King Sci & Tech Middle
Ella Holtzclaw	Omaha North High School

2nd Place

Thanvi Bhat	Millard North Middle School
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We have 3 projects named as 1st Place

Carson Thorberg	Bennington Middle School
Shruti Garapati	Omaha Central High
Shelby Lee	UNMC High School Alliance

Air and Space Forces Association Award

The mission of AFA is to advocate and promote aerospace power to favorably shape policy and resourcing decisions to guarantee the strongest aerospace forces in the world. The local chapter has selected one junior and one senior project that align with this mission.

Prayash Thapa	King Sci & Tech Middle
Fran Brannen	Omaha Central High

Omaha North High School

As it prepares to celebrate its centennial in the coming year, Omaha North High continues to prepare students for future careers in STEM fields.

As judged by North staff and students, one middle school project will receive a North High Swag bag Award for Engineering & Design

<i>Anna</i> Lattison	King Science & Technology MS
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And one middle school project will receive a North High Swag Bag for outstanding health science project

Lesley Makoumbou-Brice	King Sci & Tech Middle
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Mastery Logistics

Mastery empowers select shippers, carriers and logistics companies to thrive in complexity. The Computer Science/Logistics Award is a cash prize for two projects

<i>Elvira Johnson</i>	King Sci & Tech Middle
Jenna Murray	Bennington Middle School

Office of Naval Research

Since 1946, thousands of engineers, physicists, mathematicians, oceanographers, meteorologists, inventors, physicians and other scientists have come to the Office of Naval Research with daring ideas in investigation, invention, discovery, and world-changing advances. ONR has supported the most outstanding among them, including student science fair participants.

Junior Division Naval Science Award receives a medal and certificate

Vivian Winter	Bennington Middle School
Joseph Kwapnioski	St. Cecilia's Cathedral
Anabell Gibson	McMillan Middle School

Senior Division Naval Science Award receives a Medal, certificate, and gift card

Avery Moores	Zoo Academy
Michael Whitney	Zoo Academy

Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo & Aquarium

Named the #1 Zoo by USA Today again this month, Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium is a long time advocate for MSEF with 2024 being the 11th year hosting the fair. Besides the wonderful exhibits, we heard tonight about the world-class research that is based here in Omaha. To encourage student research, the zoo awards a Household Membership

Halli Buckley	Beveridge Middle School
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UNO STEM TRAIL Center

The STEM TRAIL Center at University of Nebraska at Omaha supports innovation and literacy at all levels for the betterment of the metro area. Tonight, 10 middle school students will receive a kit to continue STEM related exploration.

George Addy & Henry Ebers
Jordyn Schulze
Aishwarya Pandharpurkar
Adrian Biegger
Hayden Simmons
Adam Bateman
Henry Dawes
Hsa Moo
Nevin Gonzales

Lauritzen Gardens

A long-time advocate of MSEF, Lauritzen Gardens is a living museum of unique four-season plant displays, maintained to the highest standards consistent with environmental stewardship. As an award for outstanding plant and environmental research, Lauritzen Gardens awards a family membership to two projects

Arabella Bradfield	King Sci & Tech Middle
Beth Mergens	Omaha Central

South Dakota Mines

You may have talked to a representative from South Dakota Mines when you entered tonight. Mines is continually ranked among the best engineering schools in the country for return on investment.

The Outstanding Sophomore project receives a certificate to attend Summer Camp in Rapid City, South Dakota

Pranavi Prakash	Millard North High School
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Midwest Laboratories

An Omaha based business that analyzes food, soil, plants, animal food, and fertilizer and delivers science through innovation, teamwork and dynamic service. Cash prizes are awarded to innovative projects reflecting Midwest Laboratories' areas of focus.

Junior division recipients receive a \$100 cash prize

Layton Feeney	Beveridge Middle School
Kayleigh Morris	McMillan Middle School
Andrew Sorrows	Bennington Middle School

Senior division recipients receive a \$300 cash prize

Naomi Long	Zoo Academy
Alyssa Moheiser & Hadley McComas	Duchesne Academy

Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association Greater Omaha Chapter

AFCEA is dedicated to increasing knowledge through the exploration of issues relevant to its members in information communications, and electronics for the defense, homeland security and intelligence communities.

The Greater Omaha Chapter has provided awards at MSEF since the 1980's, with Col. Nelson and Dr. Lichvar serving again in 2024 as the Honorary Chairs of MSEF.

These projects are invited to set up their displays and converse with professionals at a future AFCEA luncheon where they will also receive a generous cash prize.

Oliver Gura	King Sci & Tech Middle
Joseph Kwapnioski	St. Cecilia's Cathedral
Aishwarya Pandharpurkar	Elkhorn Valley View Middle School
Adrian Biegger	King Sci & Tech Middle
Nevin Gonzales	King Sci & Tech Middle
Spencer Hartig	Bennington Middle School
Aiden Whalen	Omaha Central High
Mercedes Renken	UNMC High School Alliance
Henry Carstens	Omaha Central High