



March 14, 2023

Announcing the PECG Special Awards Winners of the 2023 LA County Science & Engineering Fair

The in-person Annual Los Angeles County Science & Engineering Fair held on March 13, 2023, at the Shrine Expo Hall in LA is concluded and was remarkably successful after going virtual the last three years due to the COVID outbreak.

After reviewing the student entries online, State engineers from various agencies interviewed, evaluated, and scored projects before selecting the finalists. Projects were judged on creativity, scientific thought, thoroughness, skill, clarity, and presentation. In addition to sponsoring the fair and offering various prizes, PECG provides two prizes of \$1,000 each that honor former Caltrans Engineers, James E. Roberts, who pioneered the Caltrans Bridge Retrofit Program, and Marilyn J. Reece, who was the first female licensed Engineer in California.

The special awards judges selected the finalists, who won based on receiving the highest scores among all students. Out of hundreds of entries reviewed, several dozen projects were shortlisted and advanced to further interviews to establish a rank for the final award selections. The finalists will receive honorable mention certificates, recognition medals and gift cards from PECG. More information about the fair with photos will soon be available on our website at <http://www.lapecg.net>

The Final vote for the winners of the 2023 LACSF-PECG special awards was as follows:

\$1,000 Marilyn J. Reece Special Award split between:

1. *\$500 Cash Award to student Anna Schofield (J1003), Engineering Applications, Jr*
Project Title - Truss Worthy Bridges, Bridge Design Selection
2. *\$500 Cash Award to student Annalia Henderson ((S1021), Environmental Management, Sr*
Project Title - Removing Contaminants From Municipal Runoff

\$1,000 James E. Roberts Special Award split between:

1. *\$500 Cash Award to student Coco Sakuma (J1011), Engineering Applications, Jr.*
Project Title - Stop Building Damages Using Earthquake Resistant Supporters
2. *\$500 Cash Award to student Andreas Eitel (J1105), Engineering Research, Jr.*
Project Title - Retrofitting Bridges to enhance earthquake resistance

The Honorable Mention Awards Winners:

1. *Cody Smith (J1014), Engineering Applications, Jr.*
2. *Blaise Smurda (J1206), Environmental Management, Jr.*
3. *Neelima Panicker (J1207), Environmental Management, Jr.*
4. *Ilia Ghatei (J1318), Materials Science, Jr.*
5. *Isabella Gonzalez (J1319), Materials Science, Jr.*
6. *Aditya Velusamy (J1405), Mathematics & Computer Science, Jr.*
7. *Minghao Guo (J1408), Mathematics & Computer Science, Jr.*
8. *Vela Benedicto (S0802), Engineering Applications, Sr.*

Brief History: Since 2004 PECG has sponsored the LA County Science Fair by contributing funds, while our engineers from various state agencies have served as members of the fair's executive board and as judges to select entries for special prizes and awards.

The LA County's student population is very diverse, is the largest in the nation, and has about one-third of all students in the State. Winning students from this fair advance to compete in the State Science Fair or may advance to the Intel® International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF), which is the premier global science competition that gives over \$15 million in award prizes annually to students.

The Los Angeles County Science Fair is the oldest regional science fair in the Western United States and has up to a thousand student entries each year from about 200 public, private and parochial schools, competing in Junior and Senior Divisions, and in 38 different areas of study. Their topics range from Physics to Chemistry, Materials Science to Mathematics, Environmental Management to Engineering Research and from Engineering Applications to Molecular Biology. Projects are judged on creativity, scientific thought, thoroughness, skill, clarity, and presentation.

More information about the fair is available on our website at www.lapecg.net.

Overall, thanks to the volunteers and all others who supported this effort, the fair went on smoothly and as always was a remarkable success, the students got a chance to showcase their projects and win prizes!!



73RD ANNUAL LOS ANGELES COUNTY SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FAIR

March 13, 2023

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

TO OUR VOLUNTEERS AND FOR THE INVALUABLE SUPPORT FROM STATE AGENCIES INCLUDING CALTRANS, DIR, ARB, DGS, CDPH, OSHPD, AND THE RWQCB STATE PUBLIC AGENCIES



* 73rd Annual LA County Science and Engineering Fair Medals & Trophies *

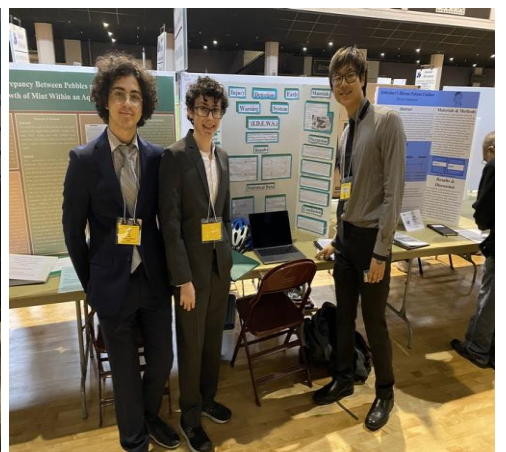
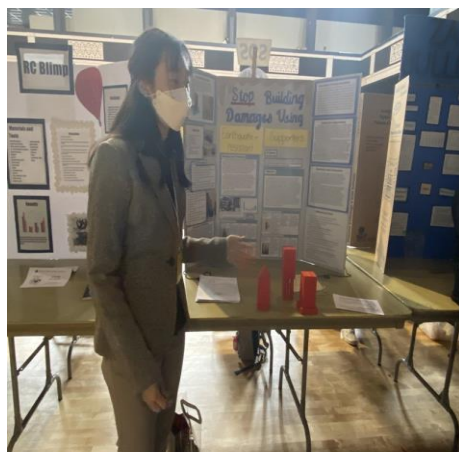
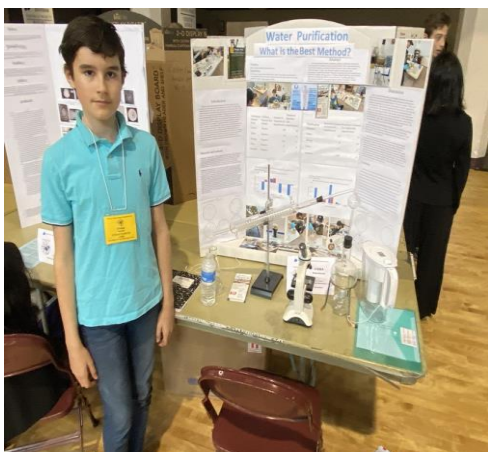
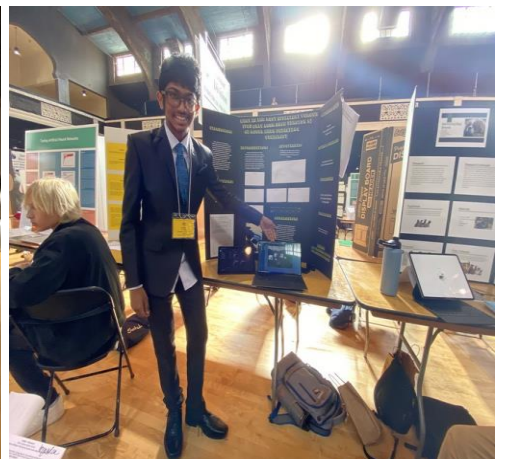
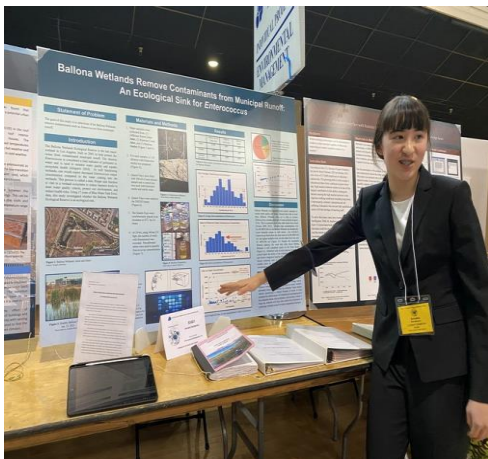
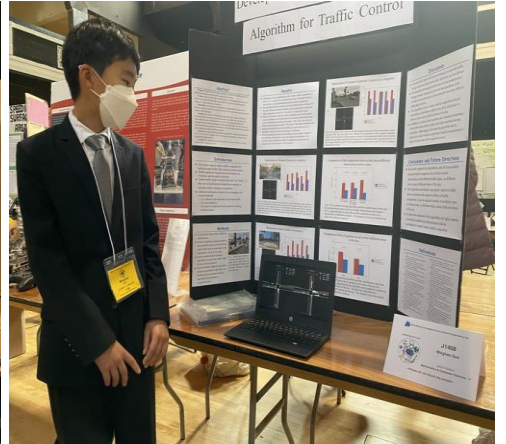
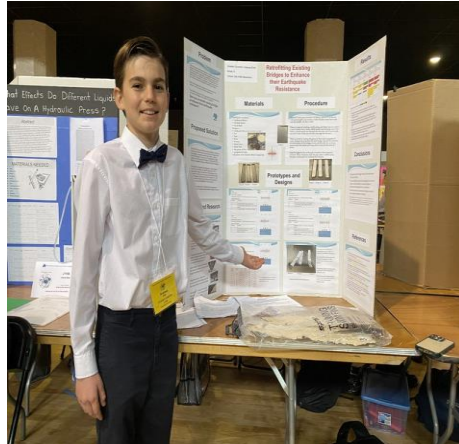
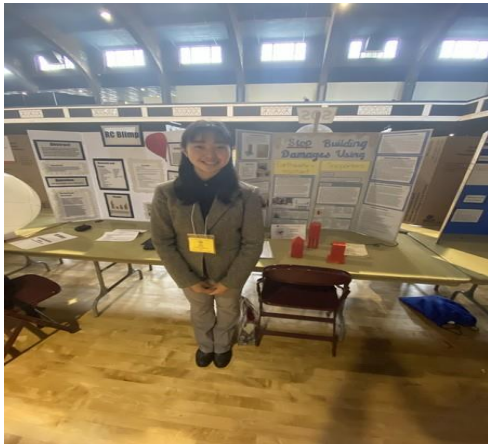
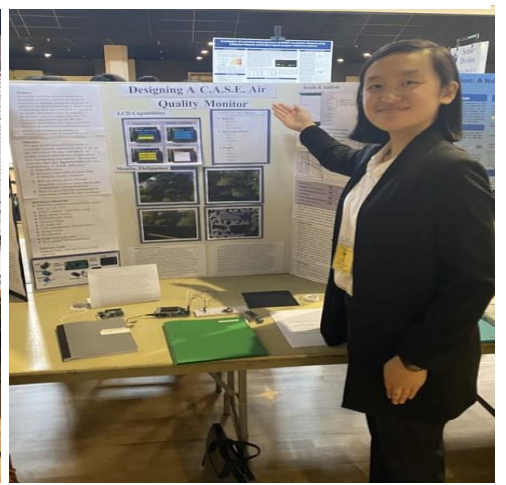
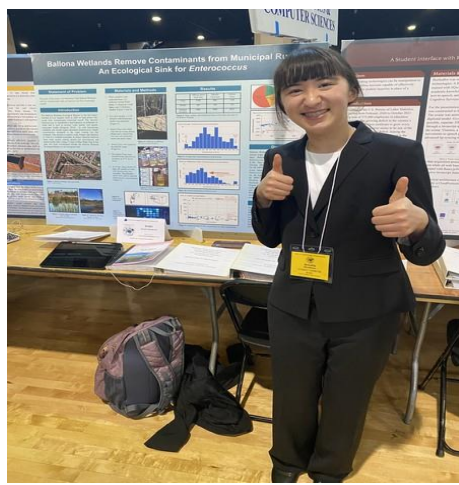


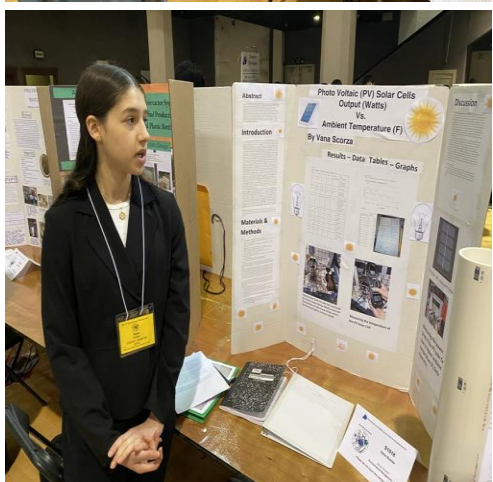
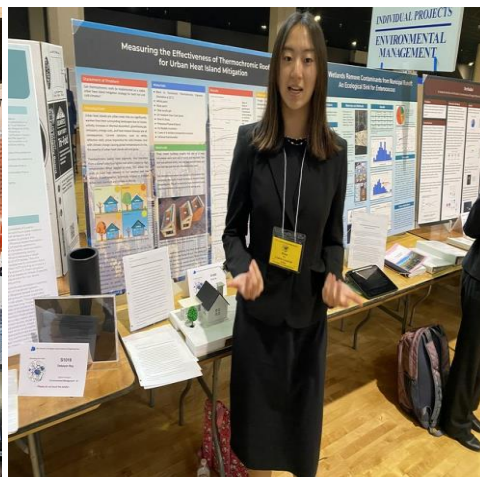
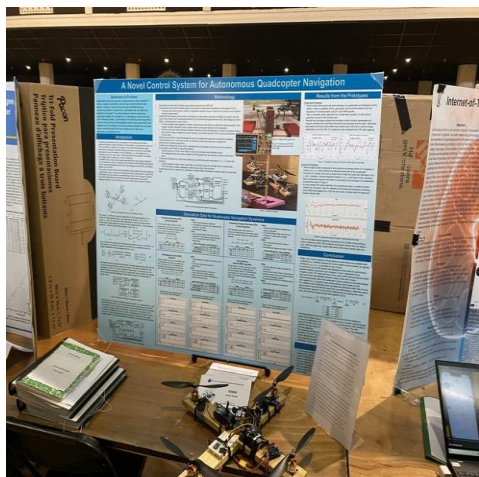
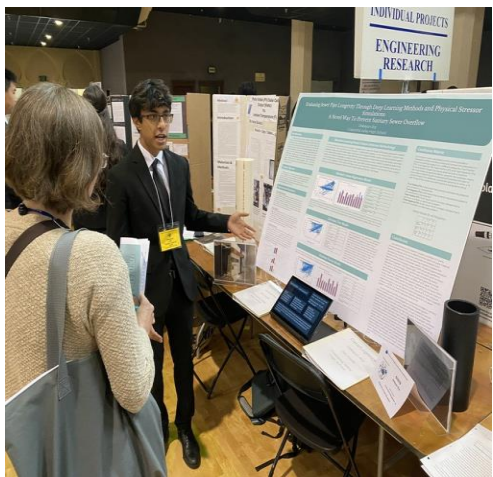
PECG SPECIAL AWARDS' & HONORABLE MENTION WINNERS



The Marilyn Jorgensen Reece Award (\$1,000 cash) and the James E Roberts Award (\$1,000 cash) are presented to the top male and female engineering students, either in the senior or junior divisions. Following the judging and scoring of all student entries, the students receive their awards' notices first and are then invited to the Caltrans District 7 Office Building in Downtown Los Angeles to the official awards ceremony where the winners receive their Awards. Each year all award-recipients' names are engraved and installed on the perpetual plaques that show all the PECG Awards winners since 2009 when the two awards were established by the Los Angeles Section of PECG. The name tags are installed on the two perpetual plaques right next to the memorial plaques of James Roberts and Marilyn Reece.







FROM THE 2023 ANNUAL LACSF PECG SPECIAL AWARDS' JUDGES