



HOLMDEL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

"A COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE"

Office of the Superintendent of Schools
65 McCampbell Road
Holmdel, NJ 07733
tel: 732-946-1800
fax: 732-946-1875

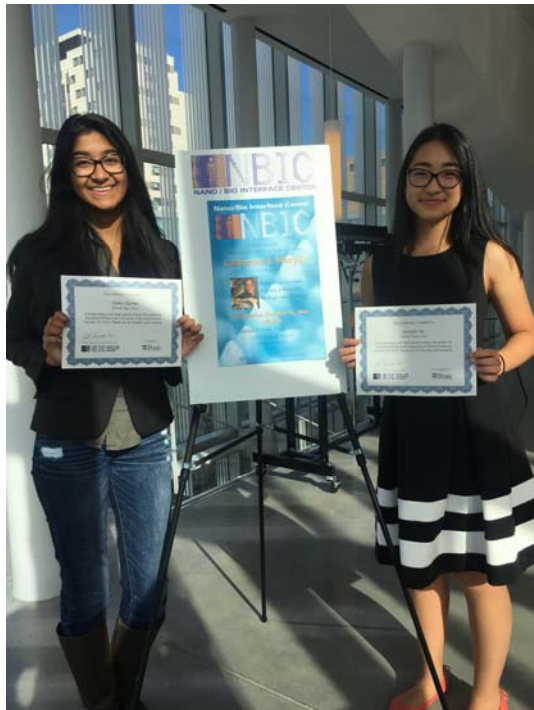
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Contact: Sean T. Dowd, 732.946.1832

HOLMDEL STUDENTS EXCEL AT IVY LEAGUE SCHOOL'S NANOTECHNOLOGY COMPETITION

HOLMDEL (November 1, 2016) – Holmdel High School seniors Sneha Sharma and Jenny He placed second and third respectively in the 12th Grade Division of a competition hosted by the Nano/Bio Interface Center at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia on October 26th.

The Nano/Bio Interface Center at Penn highlights and promotes innovations in nanotechnology and invites high school students, undergraduate and graduate students, post-doctorates and faculty to participate in exhibits, demonstrations, tours, posters and talks. Winners from last year's science fairs from across New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware presented their work at this highly competitive, "invitation only" conference. Holmdel High School was proud to send two award winners from last spring's Delaware Valley Science Fair to the competition.



Both Sharma and He are students in Holmdel's unique *Honors Advanced Research* course, which focuses on developing independent research skills and analyzing results, as well as the proper methods for presenting research findings. Like the one at Penn, competitions are an extension of what students work on in the classroom and Holmdel students have been very successful in these events over the last several years. Though many research topics are based in the sciences, they are not limited to that discipline. Previous projects have focused on topics related to mathematics, economics, patent law, and sociology. Participation and experience in these competitions become an impressive part of a student's resume and can afford opportunities for summer internships and research grants. Jenny's project was funded, in part, by a mini-grant from the Holmdel Foundation for Educational Excellence.

Sneha's winning project was titled "Biofuel from Used Coffee Grounds and Used Christmas Trees" and Jenny's winning project was titled "A Determination of the Optimal Speed of a Novel Oleophilic Oil Skimmer."

According to HHS teacher Dr. Josephine Blaha (who in 2014 won the MIT Inspirational Teacher Award), what makes these projects remarkable is that they are both “home-grown,” meaning they had no outside laboratory assistance and still both “succeeded beyond expectations.” With advances in science, technology and engineering curricula and future implementation of a career concentrations program at the high school, Holmdel looks forward to continuing to develop this kind of “home-grown” research in the district.