



# HOLMDEL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

"A COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE"

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### HOLMDEL HS SENIOR TO REPRESENT NEW JERSEY AT NATIONAL COMPETITION

HOLMDEL (May 2, 2017) – Holmdel High School senior Shravya Jasti is headed to the National Water Federation Society Symposium in North Carolina later this month where she will compete with students from across the country for the opportunity to represent the United States at the international symposium in Stockholm, Sweden and compete for the Stockholm Junior Water Prize.

According to the organizers of the international symposium, The Stockholm Junior Water Prize (SJWP) program “gathers imaginative young minds from all over the world, encouraging their continued interest in water and sustainability issues.” The competition draws more than 10,000 entries from over 30 countries. The SJWP is considered the world's most prestigious award presented to a high school student for a water-research project.

Shravya's project, “Evaluating the Effectiveness of Copper and Silver Ions in Removing Contaminants from Waste Water” was selected to move forward to the national level by the New Jersey Water Environment Association. Tom Meholic, who coordinates the program for New Jersey said that the organization believes that Shravya “will represent New Jersey at the national competition well.” “Her project, research paper, and presentation during our interview were all excellent - she was our top project at the Delaware Valley Science Fair,” he added.

According to Dr. Josephine Blaha, one of Shravya's science and research teachers at Holmdel High, commented that “Shravya's research project was completely done ‘in house,’ and stemmed from her trip last summer to India where she observed that people there had difficulty getting clean water.” “Realizing that such water filters as Brita filters were too expensive for these communities, she decided to investigate the viability of using common substrates such as clay impregnated with copper or silver ions to remove bacteria and/or organic contaminants.... and they did!” Dr. Blaha added.

Holmdel students continue to receive accolades for the high level of research they conduct as part of the school's innovative *Honors Advanced Research* course. This unique curriculum is focused on developing independent research skills and analyzing results, as well as the proper methods for presenting research findings.