



CAPS NEWS

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL SCIENTISTS

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CAPS Recognizes Outstanding Young Scientists

Students' prize-winning experiments examine public health, genetics, environment

SACRAMENTO – The California Association of Professional Scientists hosted its 23rd annual Outstanding Young Scientist Awards Luncheon today to recognize high school students whose science experiments exemplify the best such work in the state.

Nina Patel, a junior at Carmel High School in Carmel-by-the-Sea, won First Place and a \$1,000 prize for examining the health threat posed to humans by parasites in the soil at community gardens and playgrounds frequented by free-roaming cats.

The other two finalists both received \$500 awards. Junior Amaya Bechler, from Arcata's North Coast Preparatory Academy, looked at the impact on bird populations and diversity in connection with restoring wetlands in the Humboldt Bay Area. Chloe Kim, a senior at Centennial High School in Corona, observed how E. coli bacteria is transformed when injected with small pieces of DNA.

A CAPS panel of experts selected the three finalists from students who competed last summer at science and engineering fairs throughout the state. Another expert panel decided the winner and runners up based on presentations by each student and how they answered questions about their experiments.

Attached photo (l-r): Outstanding Young Scientist finalists Amaya Bechler, Nina Patel, and Chloe Kim.

ABOUT CAPS

CAPS represents 3,000 state-employed scientists working in over 30 state departments in 134 scientific classifications. CAPS members protect the public

from life- threatening diseases, safe guard our wildlife and abundant natural resources, and protect our air and water from toxic waste and pollution.