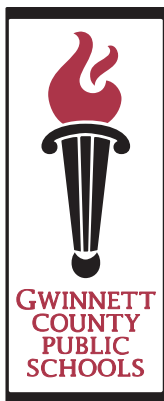


# NEWS RELEASE



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## **Six Gwinnett students earn 1st place in Georgia science fair**

At the Georgia Science and Engineering Fair in Athens on March 30-April 1, 2012, six **Gwinnett County Public Schools (GCPS)** students impressed the judges with their scientific research claiming first place in the statewide competition. In addition, another 25 students earned second place.

**Dr. Jonathon Wetherington**, the district's director of science, says of the success of Gwinnett students, "It is great to see the strong scientific foundation laid in the classroom lead to real-world success in science and engineering."

The six first-place winning Gwinnett students, their schools, and projects are:

- **Ryan Bhowmik – Trickum Middle**  
*Factors Affecting Erosion of Soils*  
Ryan is an 8th grader. His project competed in the Engineering: Materials and Bioengineering category.
- **Vivek Patel – Collins Hill High**  
*ASCL3 is a Novel Target of the CKD2 Kinase*  
In addition to earning first place, the judges also selected Vivek's project as one of the top 10 in Georgia. A 12th grader, he competed in the Cellular & Molecular Biology category. Vivek will next compete at the international level next month.
- **William Bowling and Katelyn Leka – Collins Hill High**  
*Sterilizing Contaminated Water with UV Rays Through Fiber Optics*  
William and Katelyn are both in the 11th grade. They competed in the Environmental Sciences category.
- **Sergio Parra – Mill Creek High**  
*Sewage Powered Suburbia*  
A 10th grader, Sergio competed in the Energy & Transportation category.
- **Aprotim Bhowmik – Parkview High**  
*Arterial Hemodynamics in Atherosclerosis Patients*  
Competing in the Medicine & Health Sciences category, this 10th grader's project also was selected as one of the top 10 in Georgia. He, too, has been invited to the international competition.

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It is the policy of Gwinnett County Public Schools not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, or disability in any employment practice, educational program, or any other program, activity, or service.

2010 Winner of



In addition to the first place and second place finishers, Gwinnett students were awarded with 21 special awards highlighting their excellence in specific areas of research. Among those winners was **Katherine Li** from **Peachtree Ridge High** who was awarded the Merit ISEF Trip Observer Award and who will travel to the international fair next month as an observer. In all, four Gwinnett students are invited to the international event based on their performance during the regional and state competitions:

- **Vivek Patel – Collins Hill High**  
*ASCL3 is a Novel Target of the CKD2 Kinase*
- **Christina To – Grayson High**  
*Chemistry of Hair*
- **Katherine Li – Peachtree Ridge High** (invited as an observer)  
*Detection of Circulating Tumor Cells Using Quantum Nanoparticles*
- **Aprotim Bhowmik – Parkview High**  
*Arterial Hemodynamics in Atherosclerosis Patients*

The Intel International Science and Engineering Fair takes place Sunday, May 13-Thursday, May 18, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.