

The Blue Ridge Highlands Regional Science Fair sponsored our grand award winners, along with their teachers, to attend the International Science and Engineering fair (ISEF) in Los Angeles, May 13 – 20, 2017. 1778 students from 78 countries from around the world competed for more than \$5 million dollars in prizes. The category awards ceremony is on youtube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kRY9qvFp-2o>.

Kaelum Hasler is a senior from Blacksburg High School. Carly Porter and Morgan Fisher are seniors from the Southwest Virginia Governor's School. Kaelum presented his research on "Post Consumer Pet as stock for Additive Manufacturing." Kaelum won a second place NASA special award of \$750 at ISEF. Carly and Morgan presented their research on "ACTN3, ACE, PPARD, and Outside Factors Influencing High School Male Athlete's Choice to Pursue a Sport."

Katharine Davis (chemistry teacher, Blacksburg High School) and Rebecca Phillips (director, Southwest Virginia Governor's School) also attended as their adult sponsors. Dr. Christine Hermann, chair of the Chemistry Department of Radford University, attended as the Fair Director.

The Blue Ridge Highlands Regional Science Fair would like to thank our sponsors for making this trip possible! The Fair sponsors are Dr. Christine Hermann, Stephen Pond, Thrivent Foundation, College of Natural Resources and Environment at Virginia Tech, Polymer Solutions, Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine, College of Science at Virginia Tech, Department of Chemistry at Virginia Tech, Dr. Patricia Dove, Fralin Life Science, Dr. XJ Weng and Dr. Wen Li, Community Animal Clinic in Wytheville, Dr. Jia Liu, Mr. Christopher Bibeau, Dr. Kimberly Lane, College of Science and Technology at Radford University, Department of Chemistry at Radford University, and the Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship at Radford University.

More information about the Blue Ridge Highlands Regional Science Fair can be found at <http://sciencefair.asp.radford.edu/>. The Fair Directors are Chris Hermann and Kim Lane. The Scientific Review Committee Chair is Chris Bibeau.