



NEWS RELEASE

CONNECTICUT ACADEMY OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

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Connecticut Students to be Awarded Gerber Medal of Excellence

Rocky Hill, CT – Three outstanding young Connecticut scientists will be awarded the H. Joseph Gerber Medal of Excellence at the 42nd Annual Meeting and Dinner of the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering (CASE) on May 22, 2017 at the University of Connecticut in Storrs.

The award, created by the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering and presented in partnership with Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology (CCAT), is in recognition of H. Joseph Gerber's (1924-1996) technical leadership in inventing, developing and commercializing manufacturing automation systems for a wide variety of industries, making those industries more efficient and cost-effective in a worldwide competitive environment.

"The Academy greatly appreciates CCAT's continued support of the H. Joseph Gerber Medal of Excellence awarded annually to three of Connecticut's top high school student scientists and engineers for their outstanding achievements and honors the memory of the inventor, entrepreneur and CASE member for whom the medal is named," said CASE President Laura Gabel.

Mr. Gerber — Founder, Chief Executive Officer, Chairman of the Board and President for South Windsor-based Gerber Scientific, Inc. — was a leader for nearly half a century in inventing and producing factory automation equipment designed to solve global manufacturing problems. An elected member of the National Academy of Engineering and the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering, Mr. Gerber received the National Medal of Technology in 1994 followed by the Connecticut Medal of Technology in 1995.

The recipients of this year's H. Joseph Gerber Medal of Excellence are top winners of the 2017 Connecticut Science & Engineering Fair. They are: **Shobhita Sundaram** (1st Place, Life Sciences – Senior Division) and **Ethan Novek** (1st Place, Physical Sciences – Senior Division) both from **Greenwich High School**; and **Maya Geradi** from **Wilbur Cross High School** (1st Place, Urban School Challenge – High School Division).

Sundaram's winning Science Fair project was entitled, "*Detection of Premalignant Pancreatic Cancer via Computational Analysis of Serum Proteomic Profiles*" and Novek's award was for, "*Novel Low-Temperature Carbon Capture Using Aqueous Ammonia and Organic Solvents*." Geradi won for her project, "*A Study of Circadian Genetics and Abiotic Stress Towards Sustainable Agriculture*."

CCAT sponsors the award as part of its goal to advance context-based STEM education and promote career opportunities. "The Gerber Medal of Excellence recognizes the creativity and ingenuity of Connecticut's young scientists," said Elliot Ginsberg, CCAT's President and Chief Executive Officer. "It is a tradition that CCAT is proud to support as we continue our mission to promote the importance of innovation in science, technology, engineering and mathematics in Connecticut."

About CCAT: Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology Inc. (CCAT) is a nonprofit organization, headquartered in East Hartford, Conn., that creates bold, new ideas for designing and implementing applied technologies, IT strategies, STEM education, career development, and energy solutions. By leading state, regional, and national partnerships, CCAT helps manufacturers, academia, government and nonprofit organizations to succeed. Learn more at ccat.us, or follow CCAT on Twitter - [@CCATInc](https://twitter.com/CCATInc).

About the Academy: The Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering was chartered by the General Assembly in 1976 to provide expert guidance on science and technology to the people and to the state of Connecticut, and to promote the application of science and technology to human welfare and economic well-being. www.ctcase.org

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