



## Charleston County News Release

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**See photos of winners:** <http://www.charlestoncounty.org/newsimages/projectimpactaward.htm>

## Council Recognizes Lowcountry Science Fair Special Award Winners

*Project Impact gives special awards for hazard-related and environmental theme projects*

On Tuesday, June 15, [Charleston County Council](#) recognized students selected for special awards by Charleston County's [Project Impact Partnership Program](#) during the [Lowcountry Regional Science and Engineering Fair](#) held on March 31.

The judges selected projects submitted by students in 6<sup>th</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup> grade for special awards based on hazard-related and environmental themes.

Judges for these awards were Project Impact committee members and sponsors. This year's judges represented the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Charleston County Government, city of North Charleston, town of Mount Pleasant, town of Seabrook Island, College of Charleston and the general public.

**The following students were recognized during the County Council meeting held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, June 15:**

### Project Impact Special Awards for Best Hazard-Related Theme Projects

- **1<sup>st</sup> Place: Trevor Prioleau, 9<sup>th</sup> grade, Timberland High School** (*\$300 savings bond award*)  
Trevor examined data recorded from 1950-2009 to observe if El Nino, La Nina, or neither wind patterns occurred and if there is any correlation with the patterns of hurricane and tropical storm development. He concluded that El Nino and La Nina historically have not significantly influenced the number of storms that develop each year.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Linda Caroline Russell, 6<sup>th</sup> grade, First Baptist Church School** (*\$200 savings bond award*)  
Caroline exposed various fabrics to open flames to determine which type of fabric was most flame resistant and would therefore make the best pajamas. She concluded that wool fabric was the most flame resistant and would be the best for pajamas.
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Seth Adams, 6<sup>th</sup> grade, Charleston Charter School for Math and Science** (*\$100 savings bond award*)  
Seth took samples of soils from several locations in Charleston and exposed them to a simulated earthquake on a shaker table to determine which locations would be expected to have the greatest losses associated with a large magnitude earthquake. He concluded that the soil types did effect the ability of structures placed on them to withstand earthquakes and that the damages varied by location and soil type.

### Project Impact Special Awards for Best Environmental Theme Projects:

- **1<sup>st</sup> Place: Michaela O'Brien, 7<sup>th</sup> grade, Coastal Christian Preparatory School** (*\$300 savings bond award*)  
Michaela took samples from public water fountains and tested them for bacteria. She concluded that public water fountains added bacteria to the water, so the water is not as safe as water from other sources.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Jacob Dustan, 10<sup>th</sup> grade, Academic Magnet High School** (*\$200 savings bond award*)

Jacob sampled soil in areas surrounding the Noisette Navy base and the former incinerator to determine if there was mercury contamination. He concluded that there was mercury in the soils he sampled, and this should be considered prior to selecting sites for development.

- **3<sup>rd</sup> Place: William Broome, 9<sup>th</sup> grade, Timberland High School** (*\$100 savings bond award*)  
William tested several types of fireplace logs using testing equipment to determine which emitted the fewest gases and heavy metals when burned. He also tested the ash remaining for pH levels. He concluded that two types of commercially available fireplace logs (Pine Mountain and DuraFlame) burned the cleanest and were the most “eco-friendly”.
- **Honorable Mention: Gabriela Esnaola, 7<sup>th</sup> grade, Porter Gaud** (*certificate of recognition*)  
Gabriela studied the effects of TSP and TPP, both phosphate chemicals, to determine the effects they have on waterborne Amazon Sword plant growth. She concluded that fertilizer outside of the water environment was contributing to the level of these phosphates and related impact on aquatic plants.
- **Honorable Mention: Caroline Lista, 7<sup>th</sup> grade, Palmetto Christian Academy** (*certificate of recognition*)  
Caroline tested 10 combinations of different materials used for buffering and control of erosion and fertilizer runoff. She determined that grass growing in dirt and sand was the best buffer for erosion and control of fertilizer filtration.

#### **SIDEBAR:**

- The Charleston County’s Project Impact Partnership program was formed in 1999 with the help of a Federal Emergency Management Agency grant. There are now 172 local partnership members who focus on making the Charleston County communities more disaster resistant, including undertaking environmental improvement endeavors.
- Charleston County’s Project Impact was selected by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to receive a Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) cooperative agreement in 2007.
- Project Impact has been selecting projects for Special Awards at the Lowcountry Regional Science and Engineering Fair since 2000.
- Thirty-five students were selected to receive Project Impact Special Awards between 2000-2009. Many of these students have had their projects on display at the Charleston County Public Services Building and have been recognized during County Council Meetings.
- Projects previously awarded the Hazard Theme Special Awards have been on topics such as hurricanes, tornadoes, terrorism, earthquakes, flooding, fire, disaster-resistant construction techniques and other related topics. Environmental Special Awards have been provided to students who created projects on topics such as air quality, water quality, organic gardening, marine wildlife preservation, and recycling.
- Savings bond awards are funded by Project Impact.
- For more information about Project Impact or its science fair awards, contact Carl Simmons, Director, Charleston County Building Inspection Services Department, at (843) 202-6940.

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