

Hebron

Connecticut Students Earn Awards

School Stuff

Submitted by Karen Cohen on 2009-04-27.

Two Connecticut Science Fair (CSF) students earned awards at ceremonies held in Houston at the International Sustainable World, I-SWEEEP 2009, the second annual worldwide competition for research in sustainability for middle and high school students. The Junior Energy Grand Award and Gold Medal award of \$500 was presented to Bridget M. Oei, a seventh-grade home schooled student from Hebron. This is highest award of the middle school Energy Awards at I-SWEEEP. Oei also received two special awards. Oei's project called "Piezoelectric Tiles: A Novel Approach to Harvesting Vibration as a Renewable Energy Source" studied the generation of electricity from footsteps on floor tile supported on piezoelectric ceramics. Bridget estimated that 1.8 watts power per square foot could be generated by tiling a heavily trafficked floor.

Bridget won the opportunity to compete at I-SWEEEP 2009 by being the top winner of the eesmarkets/ Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund Sustainable Resources & Practices Award at the 2009 Connecticut Science Fair.

Laurence V. Pevsner, a junior at Greenwich High School received the Bronze medal and \$200 in the Senior Environmental category. Pevsner won his I-SWEEEP 2009 trip as top winner of the United Illuminating Future Sustainability Award at the 2009 Connecticut Science Fair for his project "Fungal Remediation of Diesel-contaminated Soil with the Oyster Mushroom, *Pleurotus ostreatus*." Pevsner found that oyster mushrooms could remediate diesel contaminated soil at the rate of 3.5 percent per day. Laurence's teacher and project adviser is Andrew Bramante, Greenwich High School.

In all, 450 highly qualified projects from 60 different countries were displayed at the George R. Brown Convention Center during April 15 through 20. Nearly 1,200 young scientists, their advisers and parents came to Houston for this remarkable event.

Finalist students were selected to compete at I-SWEEEP by winning a top prize at a local, regional, state or national science fair. Participants enjoyed the opportunity to meet with their friends from different parts of the world while seeing that they are not the only ones committed to finding solutions to global problems.

The I-SWEEEP Awards are valued at nearly \$400,000 in scholarships, monetary prizes, tuition grants, and scientific internships.

The Connecticut Science Fair, which marks its 61st anniversary this year, is an all-volunteer Connecticut nonprofit whose mission is to provide recognition opportunities for science, engineering, and mathematics students in grades 7 to 12. The CSF has served more than 30,000 students since its inception. For more information, visit the CSF website at www.ctsciencefair.org.

I-SWEEEP is administered by the Cosmos Foundation. This is second year of the competition. For more information, visit I-SWEEEP at <http://www.isweeep.org>.

