



Connecting students to careers, professionals to communities and communities to better health



*Connecticut's delegation at the 2026 Interregional Junior Research Forum: **Victoria Makarov, Sabrina Liu, Tyler Malkin, Ravindu Karunaratne, Aryan Shrivastav, and Lucia Vivanco***

## **CT AHEC Supports STEM Workforce Development at Symposia**

The Connecticut High School Science and Humanities Symposium (HSSHS) was hosted by CT AHEC and sponsored by UConn Health in Farmington in February.

250 participants (both in-person and virtual) from over 45 high schools competed with and/or observed STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) research presentations and took part in a humanities activity led by health professions students. In addition, CT Junior Science and Humanities Symposium alumni provided mentorship to competitors and exhibitors. The annual symposium challenges students to be the future workforce that will make exciting discoveries and solve society's problems.

Six of Connecticut's top competitors earned a spot at the Interregional Junior Research Forum, hosted virtually by Alabama Academy of Science and University of South Alabama, in April.

Connecticut delegation members placed 1st or 2nd in their respective categories as follows:

Biomedical Science:

1st Place - **Tyler Malkin** of Greenwich High School: *Development of a Novel Nanoparticle Drug-Delivery System Using OLAH Targeting to Deliver Surfactant Protein and Prevent Neonatal Respiratory Distress Syndrome*

Engineering, Math, and Computer Science:

1st Place - **Victoria Makarov** of Laurel Springs School (online): *Optimizing Bus Fleet Allocation in Mid-sized Cities Using Mixed-Integer Nonlinear Programming: A Case Study in Stamford, CT*

2nd Place - **Aryan Shrivastav** of Amity Regional High School, Woodbridge: *Developing a Bio-Hybrid Luminescent Solar Concentrator Using Carbon Quantum Dots, Natural Fluorophores, and Kaolin Powder for Enhanced Solar Energy Harvesting*

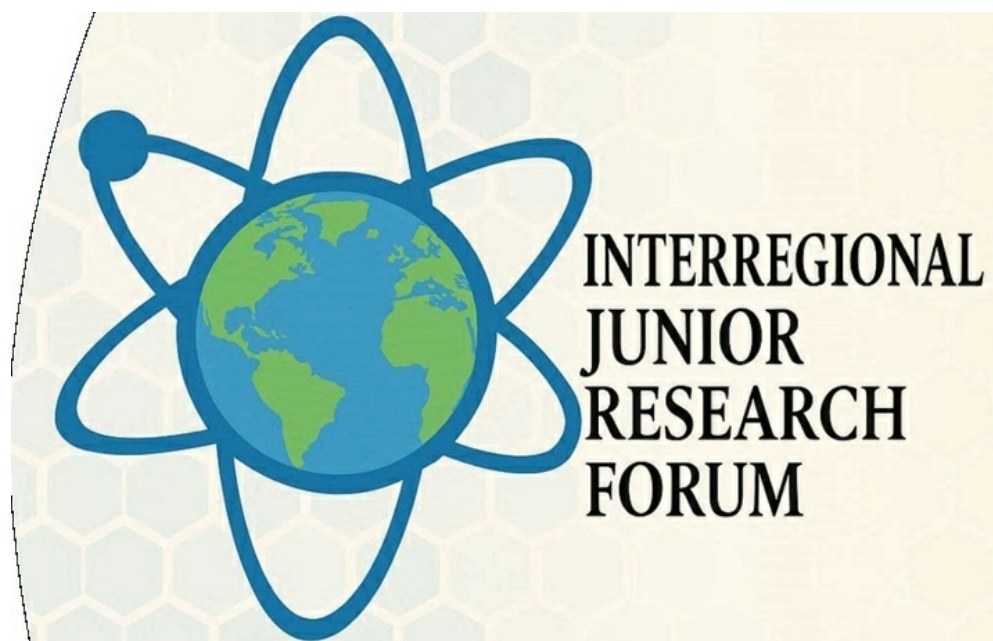
Environmental Science:

2nd Place - **Lucia Vivanco** of King School, Stamford: *Experimentation and Application of Nutrient Additives to Enhance Resilience of Coral Reefs against Climate Change*

Medicine and Social Science:

1st Place - **Sabrina Liu** of Choate Rosemary Hall, Wallingford: *NeuroMirror: A Hebbian-Theory-Based EEG-Driven Mirror Therapy System for Post-Stroke Upper-Limb Rehabilitation*

CT HSSHS is yet another example of how CT AHEC is preparing the state's workforce for tomorrow.



### **Supporting Primary Care Workforce Development in Connecticut by:**

- ▶ Promoting Strong Community/Academic Partnerships
- ▶ Creating Pipeline Programs for Pre-Health Professions Students
- ▶ Supporting Health Careers Awareness Programming
- ▶ Providing Community-Based Training for Health Professions Students
- ▶ Supporting Community-Based Health Education and Screenings
- ▶ Promoting Strategies to Address Health Disparities

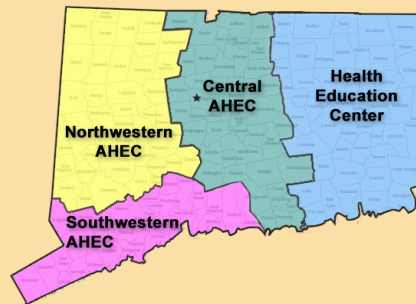
### **CT AHEC Network Regional Centers:**

Central AHEC, Inc. (Hartford and Middlesex Counties, Meriden and Wallingford)  
[www.centraltahec.org](http://www.centraltahec.org)

Health Education Center, Inc. (New London, Tolland and Windham Counties)  
[www.healtheducenter.org](http://www.healtheducenter.org)

Northwestern AHEC  
(Greater Waterbury, Greater Danbury and Litchfield County)  
[www.nwctahec.org](http://www.nwctahec.org)

Southwestern AHEC, Inc. (Southern Fairfield and New Haven Counties)  
<https://swctahec.org>



The statewide Connecticut Area Health Education Center (CT AHEC) Network, based at UConn Health, is implemented through four regional centers which enable the CT AHEC Network to provide high-quality, efficient, effective and flexible services that meet local needs. Thank you for your continued support of the CT AHEC Network.

**Call us** at 860-679-7969 or **visit:**  
[h.uconn.edu/ct-ahec](http://h.uconn.edu/ct-ahec)