

Awards honor Kern's teen leaders

THE BAKERSFIELD CALIFORNIAN

Teen leaders from area high schools showcased community service projects for this year's Dream Builders Program that focused on such things as childhood obesity, art for deaf students and careers in science.

The 7th annual Dream Builders Awards Night Thursday honored four teams with some of the county's brightest high school leaders.

Thirty-two students selected were separated into teams and paired with mentors from sponsoring businesses. They then planned and implemented community service projects.

Three \$350 awards were presented to groups during a showcase at the Bakersfield Museum of Art, along with one \$100 award. That money was donated to charities.

The program was created in 2003 through the Jim



PHOTO COURTESY OF MIKIE HAY

Calling themselves the Healthy Choice Informants, members of the Aera Energy LLC Dream Builder Team took off their detective glasses as they shared their adventures of teaching youngsters at the Mercy Learning Center about healthy food and living choices. Back row, left to right: Austin Davis, Elise Norris, Morgan Barnes; front row, left to right, David Roth, Lauren Richardson, P.J. Atchison. Not pictured: Morgan Solorio.

Burke Education Foundation to promote civic responsibility, youth mentoring and career-building skills in area high schoolers.

Sponsors included Area Energy LLC, Bright House Networks, Mercy Hospitals of Bakersfield and Rabobank.

DREAM BUILDERS TEAMS

Aera Energy LLC Team

Taught young students the importance of eating right and living healthy by building a vegetable garden at the Mercy Learning Center. They also investigated fun ways to exercise with jump ropes, balls and chalk.

Award: Inspirational teamwork

PJ Athison, Garces; Morgan Barnes, Bakersfield; Austin Davis, Liberty; Mona Gupta, Ridgeview; Elise Norris, Bakersfield; Lauren Richardson, Frontier; David Roth, Stockdale; Morgan Solorio, Highland

Bright House Networks Team

Taught deaf students creative ways to express themselves

through art. Students created abstract masterpieces that were displayed at the Bakersfield Museum of Art.

Award: Community collaboration and PowerPoint excellence

Brian Austin, Centennial; Rosalinda Cortez, South; Kirby Ellis, Frontier; Amy Kelly, Liberty; Melissa Merrill, Bakersfield Christian; Rodolfo Salgado, South; Paul Steele, Garces; Drew Wiggins, Bakersfield

Mercy Hospitals of Bakersfield Team

Developed a series of hands-on science projects to spark an interest in science careers. Students discovered the fun of making ice cream, bouncy balls, glow sticks and rockets with guest speakers from the

community.

Award: Innovative concept Sandra Aldama, Foothill; Kyle Gillespie, Bakersfield; Charlie Glavin, Frontier; DJ Pepito, Liberty; Justin Roney, East; Cornelius Sackey, Stockdale; Lisa Soper, Garces; Samantha Valdez, Golden Valley

Rabobank Team

Created an informational video for parents and posters for local hospitals to increase awareness of the new Bakersfield Ronald McDonald House at Memorial Hospital.

Award: Community impact Joanne Bae, Liberty; John Cummings, East; Matt Darr, Frontier; Kacie Mills, North; Hillary Orton, North; Cici Pandol, Bakersfield Christian; Grant Paulson, Bakersfield; Andrew Whittington, Garces

KERN COUNTY HISTORY DAY WINNERS

JUNIOR DIVISION (Grades 4-8)

Group Performance

* Sameen Bramer, Calvin Laverty, Brittany Louey, Ramie Sahota and Amy Williams, Fruitvale Jr. High — "Disturbing the Peace: The Freedom Rides, an Innovation that Changed Civil Rights into a National Movement"

Individual Performance

* Andrew Kerwin, Fruitvale Jr. High — "The Manhattan Project: An Innovation that Would Change the World"
* Julia Gonzales, Columbia Elementary — "Social Innovator: Ella Baker, SNCC, and the Student Movement"

Group Documentary

* Estrella Lobos and Isabella Ozuna, Alicante School — "Hoover Dam: The Impact and Change from Taming the Red Bull"

* Noah Kroeger, Michelle Laurendine and Meredith Neilson, Fruitvale Jr. High — "The Marshall Plan: An Innovation that Changed Nations"

Individual Documentary

* Christopher Trickey, Endeavour Elementary — "Food Grows Where Water Flows: The Impact of the State Water Project"

* Alap Sahoo, Warren Jr. High — "Petroleum: The Power House of Our Lives"

Group Exhibit

* Julia Castro, Gabriela Hinojosa, Mikayla Regier and Dylan Tucker, Discovery Elementary — "The Impact and Change of Blood Transfusions"

* Olivia Belda and Makay Moss, Fruitvale Jr. High — "Innovators of Light: War of the Currents"

Alternate: Harjot Dosanjh and Arnie Ozuna, Mountain View Middle — "The Hoover Dam:"

Taming the Red Bull"

Individual Exhibit

* Bianca Salazar, Mountain View Middle — "The Seneca Falls Convention: Launching Women Towards Their Rightful Place in the U.S."

* Dylan Logan, Valley Oaks Charter School — "Irrigation Then and Now"

Alternate: Laura Cruz, Alicante School — "Polio Vaccine: Everlasting Hope"

Individual Website

* Grace Park, Fruitvale Jr. High — "The Advancement and History of the Lithium Battery"

* Alexandria Crandall, Warren Jr. High — "Personal Computers: Impact on the World"

Group Website

* Frederika Ruedo, Almond Tree Middle — "How Music Moves the World"

Historical Paper

* Brooke Richter, Fruitvale Jr. High — "Tuvia Bielski: Innovation in Survival"

Group Poster (Grades 4-5 only)

* Emily Holland, Emily Gusman and Paige Reed, Highland Elementary — "Insulin Pumps: Pumping Up Life!"

* Dylan Clayton, Lucas Dow, Chandler Maurer and Luke Sullivan, Highland Elementary — "Global Hawk: Innovative Flyer"

Alternate: Jayla Gutierrez, Lizbeth Rodriguez and Diocelene Valderrama, Myrtle Avenue School — "Jazz"

Individual Poster (Grades 4-5 only)

* Elsie Mares, Alicante School — "The Telephone: Reaching Out and Impacting the World"

* Elisa Rowatt, Endeavour Elementary — "Failure is Impossible"

Alternate: Ageda Arvizu, Myrtle

Ave. School — "Plastic"

* Students eligible to represent Kern County at the state history day competition

SENIOR DIVISION (Grades 9-12)

Historical Paper

* Carl Demler, Garces Memorial High — "The Innovation of Modern Beekeeping"

Group Documentary

* Bianca Hinojosa and Marissa Manos, Centennial High — "A Second Chance: The Innovation of the Heart Transplant"

* Kerry Burke and Laura Meert, Garces — "The Camera Pill: An Innovation in Endoscopy"

* Grace and Sarah Moore, Centennial — "Patent No. 2981877: The Micro-Innovation That Transformed the Modern World"

Individual Documentary

* Sara Melgar, Centennial — "Changes in Laser Technology and Its Impact on People"

* Morgan Barnes, Bakersfield High — "Woodstock"

* Jasmine Rodriguez, Garces — "Radio: An Innovative Way of Communicating"

Individual Performance

* Paige Smith, Garces — "Radio: An Innovative Way of Communicating"

Individual Exhibit

* Farah Hasta, Garces — "Ballet: A Leap Forward in the Arts"

* Seth Champness, Garces — "The Geo Cooler: A Revolution in Well Temperature Control"

* Demetria Hayman — "Tanks"

Group Website

* Bobby Hill and Alex Giumarra, Garces — "The Tank and Its Impact on Warfare"

Source: Kern County Superintendent of Schools

HISTORY: State competition next

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topics they choose.

About 140 students from 22 county schools, with 70 entries, participated in this year's competition. About 50 local educators and local historians served as judges.

For the competition, students must analyze and explain their topic's historical significance through research papers, websites, exhibits, performances or documentaries. They cite sources and interview real people.

That was the case with a Fruitvale Junior High team of two who interviewed a descendant of Nikola Tesla, inventor of the Tesla coil — an electric current device — for their project on "Innovations of Light, Battle of the Currents."

The students also looked at microfilm while researching at Cal State Bakersfield's library.

On Saturday, they displayed a Tesla coil they made at University Square in downtown Bakersfield.

"We use electricity everyday," said Makay Moss, a seventh-grader at Fruitvale, standing next to his partner,

Olivia Belda. "The only time we notice (electricity) is when we don't have it, like when the power goes out."

Other projects focused on things like photography, cell phones, Megan's Law and the impact of tanks on warfare. Students begin projects as early as the start of the school year.

Christine Frazier, Kern County Superintendent of Schools, said students every year put in a tremendous amount of work for the extracurricular activity. And parents and teachers are very supportive, she said.

"To see our nation's history through their eyes is spectacular," she told students and parents during an awards presentation at Bakersfield High School's Harvey Auditorium.

National History Day is an academic program that has more than 500,000 students participate nationwide, according to the University of Maryland, home of the history day national competition.

Local winners move on to the state competition May 6 through 9 in Pasadena. State

winners go on to National History Day in June to Maryland.

But it's not all about winning, said history teacher and Fruitvale coach Lori Maynard. Students "learn by doing research."

"They remember this their whole life," said Maynard, who has been coaching history day for 10 years.

Last year, five Fruitvale Junior High students, including Hinojosa's big sister, took first place medals and \$1,000 to divide at National History Day.


The group represented Kern County as one of the two groups from California that made it to nationals.

Their 2009 project and presentation was on Sylvia Mendez, a Mexican-American Orange County resident whose parents fought for desegregation of schools. The landmark California Supreme Court case Mendez vs. Westminster ended segregation in California and paved the way for the more well-known case Brown vs. Board of Education.



Fruitvale also won at nationals in 2006.

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Angling for some trout

TOP: Jena Hallmark tries out her luck Saturday morning in Hart Park during the North of the River fishing derby. LEFT: A man gets ready to pull out one of the first trout caught. The lake was recently stocked with 2,000 pounds of fish in anticipation of the event.

CASEY CHRISTIE / THE CALIFORNIAN