

News release



Everett Public Schools

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H.M. Jackson High School students win awards and cash at Washington State University STEM fair

Now eligible and recommended for the WSU Scholar Program if they choose to attend college there



Andy Sevald, Co-advisor; Indira Rayala, Hannah Cho, Celia Evans, and Kim Griggs, Co-advisor with 1st place awards

On May 18-19, the [H.M. Jackson High School's Engineering and Research club](#) competed against students representing 54 schools from Washington, Idaho and Montana at a STEM fair called [Imagine Tomorrow](#) hosted by WSU in Pullman.

This fair challenges ninth- through 12th-graders to look for new ways to transition to alternative energy sources. Students research complex topics about renewable energy, then create technologies, designs, or plans to mobilize public behavior. They forge connections in their communities and create positive change.

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Four teams consisting of ten students: Miranda Aiken, Hannah Cho, Celia Evans, Artyom Kozorezov, Akshy Palanisamy, Shruti Parikh, Brooke Parsons, Indira Rayala, Anastasia Redina and Madison Warnke, competed in this fair and earned awards for research titled: *The Effect on Methane Production during the Anaerobic Digestion of Cow Manure Along with Bio-degradable Plastic*

One team earned first place in the *Biofuels Challenge* which earned each team member \$1,000 and \$5,000 for Jackson High School. The school also brought home the award for *Best Project by a Team from a Newly Participating School*. That newbie award earned each student \$100 and another \$500 for Jackson High School.

In addition to monetary prizes, all ten students had the opportunity to present their research to over 140 scientists from companies and organizations such as Boeing and NARA; many were offered internships. Each is also now eligible and recommended for the WSU Scholar Program if they choose to attend college there.

"These three students now have \$1,100 dollars in their pockets, and we have \$5,500 to start on projects for next year!" said [Kimberly Griggs](#), Jackson High School's Engineering and Research Club Co-advisor.

"We really want to thank [Dr. Bob Sotak](#) for helping this team in particular because earlier this year he sat down with students and devised a more economical way to measure methane production. Without his chemistry advice, this project would have never been this successful," added [Andrew Sevald](#), Engineering and Research Club co-advisor.



At the May 14 school board meeting, three of the award-winning students presented their projects to the directors. Here JHS student Artyom Kozorezov explains the workings of his research project examining ways to harness the power of underwater currents.

This is the first year for co-advisors Kim Griggs and Andy Sevald, and they are receiving kudos all around.

"You continue to make Jackson High School and Everett Public Schools very proud! Keep up the wonderful work you do for our students," said Carl L. Fender, Director, Career and Technical Education.

"This is a wonderful accomplishment. It is great when students have the chance to solve real problems and to see that their ingenuity literally pays off!" said Dr. Catherine Matthews, Interim Associate Superintendent.