

## News release



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### **Internationally recognized student scientists**

***Students from H.M. Jackson High School compete in world competition***



Photo contributed by Dr. Joshua Griggs

*Indira Rayala, Artyom Kozorezov and Shruti Parikh represented Washington State*

Three H.M. Jackson High School students and their advisor travelled to Oswego, New York with their science research and engineering projects to compete against 400 other students representing over 50 countries and territories.

The [International Genius Olympiad](#) was held between June 16 and June 21. Thousands of students applied and were selected from around the world, and only 400 received scholarships to this event.

“We received two second-place medals and an honorable mention,” announced [Kim Griggs](#), [Engineering and Research club](#) co-advisor.

Shruti Parikh earned second place for her research titled, *Phytoremediation of Arsenic in Coal Dust Using Polystichum munitum*. Indira Rayala also placed second for her research titled, *The Effect on Methane Production During the Anaerobic Digestion of Cow Manure Along with Bio-degradable Plastic*. Both received silver medals, Kindle Fire tablets and are eligible for a \$16,000 scholarship if they decide to attend [SUNY](#) (State University New York) Oswego for undergraduate school.

Artyom Kozorezov earned an honorable mention for his project titled, *Engineering a Device for Utilizing the Kinetic Energy from the Pitching and Heaving Motion of Oceanic Waves through Mechanical Strain Applied to Piezoelectric Elements* and is also eligible for the scholarship.

Students attended an international fair where all the countries shared gifts and food with each other. They also got to experience dorm life on the campus of SUNY and meet with professors and college recruiters. In addition, they received all-expense paid trips to Niagara Falls and Destiny USA mall in Syracuse, NY.

“It was an amazing experience and they said that meeting students from other countries really opened their eyes to the world around them,” continued Griggs.

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Students spent the week hanging out and forming friendships with students from countries such as Turkey, Kosovo, Mozambique, Moldova and others.

“Students told me this experience has given them a greater appreciation for the struggles people endure in other countries and the role government can play in science and technology. Each of them is excited to return next year!” said Griggs.

“Congratulations to you and your students! What an accomplishment right out of the gate! Hopefully, word will spread that research pays off,” added [Dr. Catherine Matthews](#), interim director of curriculum and assessment.



GENIUS Olympiad promotes a global understanding of environmental issues and sustainability achievement through basic science, arts, creative writing, engineering, design, and policy development. GENIUS Olympiad provides challenges and opportunities for secondary school students, to instill in them the skills and knowledge needed to be the citizens, leaders, scientists, artists, writers, engineers, and policy makers of the future – agents who will promote and contribute to greater environmental sustainability throughout their lives.

“[Everett Public Schools](#) and [Jackson High School](#) are now home to three internationally recognized research and engineering student scientists! We are so proud of them and can't wait for the year ahead of us!” beamed Andy Sevald, [Engineering and Research club](#) co-advisor.

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