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News release

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Jackson High ninth-grader is best of the best at science fair *Super Bowl*

Sriharshita 'Harshu' Musunuri wins her category at [Intel International Science and Engineering Fair](#)



This year 1,700 students from more than 75 countries and nearly 500 affiliated science fairs competed in the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

One Washington student, Harshu Musunuri, distinguished herself as one of the best of the best, winning the *Best in Category* in *physical energy*, one of only 20 categories of research showcased at the competition. *Best in Category* awards Musunuri \$5,000. As a result of Musunuri's success, the Intel Foundation also awarded a \$1,000 grant to her school, [Henry M. Jackson High School](#), and to the affiliated science fair that initially sent Musunuri to Pittsburgh, the [Washington State Science and](#)

[Engineering Fair](#).

In addition to the *Best in Category* prize, Musunuri also won a special award from the United Technologies Corporation that includes \$3,000 in stock, a first-place award of \$3,000 and the Innovation Exploration Award for a trip to Caltech to present her research, network with professionals, and tour the Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

"I am just so impressed with Harshu!" said her research club advisor, Andy Sevald. "Throughout this experience, with its pressures, deadlines and material issues, she has handled herself extremely well. A weaker researcher would have hung it up months ago. A researcher needs both aptitude and attitude. After six months of observation I can tell you that Harshu has plenty of both.

"After the awards ceremony one judge confided to Musunuri that she had been in consideration for one of the top three grand awards, but missed the *Young Scientist Award* (\$75,000) by a thin margin.

"I would also like to add that none of this success would have been possible without the assistance she received from scientists, engineers, and manufacturers from the local and not-so-local community. I am often just blown away by the support our students receive once we contact people in the industry of interest," concluded Sevald.

The Intel International Science and Engineering Fair honors the world's most promising student entrepreneurs, innovators and scientists. Finalists are selected annually from hundreds of affiliated fairs. Their projects are then evaluated onsite by more than 1,200 judges from nearly every scientific discipline, each with a Ph.D. or the equivalent of six years of related professional experience in one of the scientific disciplines.

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