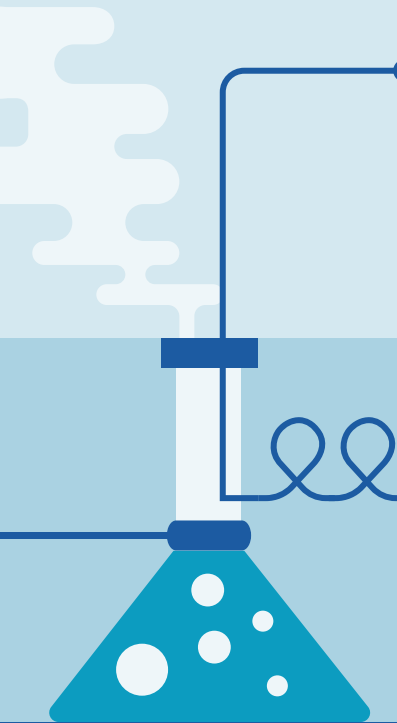
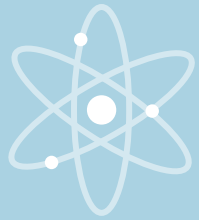


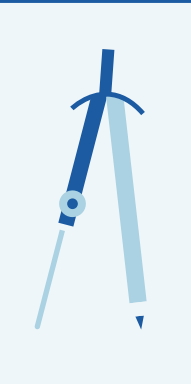
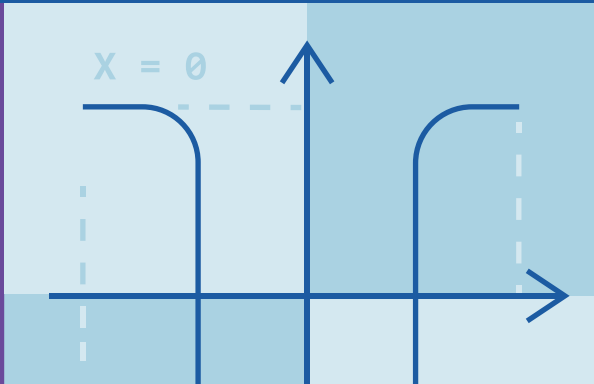
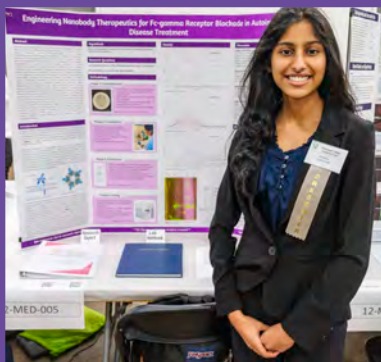
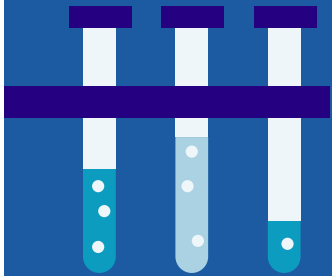
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DELAWARE VALLEY SCIENCE FAIRS

Annual Report

2025-2026



dvsf.org



**"Progress doesn't come
from avoiding hard
problems, but from
learning how to face
them differently."**

— AADITYA KAMBLI

***Central Bucks High School South
10th Grade DVSF Bronze Medalist***

DEAR FRIENDS OF DVSF,

2026 was a year dedicated to inspiring the next generation of innovators through our year-round STEM education programs. It is my pleasure to share our 2026 achievements with you.

As operating costs continue to rise, we are encouraged by the growing enthusiasm for STEM education across our region. This year – the 78th year of Delaware Valley Science Fairs – we welcomed more than 1,000 students from Delaware, Southeastern Pennsylvania, and Southern New Jersey to present their research to more than 420 volunteer judges at the Greater Philadelphia Expo Center. Despite increasing expenses, we remain steadfast in our commitment to ensuring students can participate in our programs at no cost.

As an organization fully funded through charitable support, everything we accomplish is made possible by our generous volunteers, donors, sponsors, and community partners. Your investment helps foster curiosity, confidence, and a lifelong passion for STEM while shaping students' educational and career journeys.

In addition to our student fairs on April 1, 2026, we hosted three workshops for parents and educators and welcomed representatives from 28 colleges and universities to our fourth annual DVSF College Fair, creating valuable opportunities for students to explore future academic pathways. We also continued our partnership with WHYY student journalists, who captured the excitement and impact of the event through the eyes of their peers.

Our commitment to expanding access to STEM education remains stronger than ever. This year, we launched a new program, the Student Research Initiative (SRI), designed to engage middle school students from underserved and underrepresented communities by removing barriers to participation and reinforcing a simple but powerful message: Everyone belongs in STEM. You'll read more about the encouraging outcomes of this pilot program in the pages ahead.

Thank you for believing in our mission and investing in the future of STEM education. Your generosity continues to open doors, create opportunities, and inspire the innovators who will shape tomorrow.

With appreciation,



Bob Solomon | Executive Director & President



Bob Solomon (M) with Megan Strang (L) & Dina Ellsworth (R), recipients of the 2026 DuPont Excellence in Teaching award

**FY26
AT A GLANCE**

1,036

STUDENTS

420+

VOLUNTEER JUDGES

78

YEARS

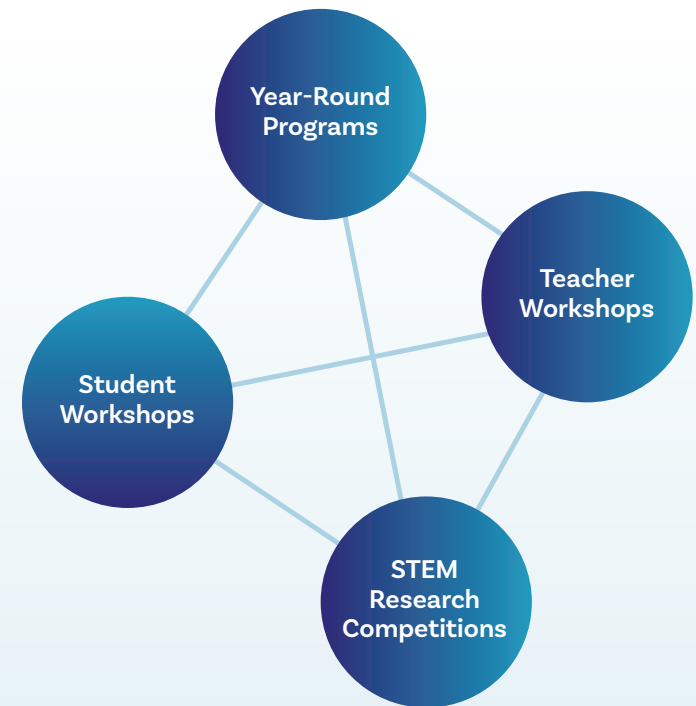
DVSF MISSION & OVERVIEW

Igniting Innovation, Empowering Futures

Founded in 1949, DVSF strives to bring parents, teachers, academia, and industry together to inspire and challenge young people to become successful leaders, innovators, entrepreneurs, and scientists.

DVSF, a 501(c)3 organization, enables students in middle and high schools to **develop a love of science**, **create interest in STEM** at this stage in their lives, **gain confidence** and, finally, **move into careers in STEM disciplines**. DVSF's year-round programs – including teacher workshops, student workshops, mentorship, and one of the largest science and engineering research competitions in the United States – provide opportunities to inspire the next generation of innovators and support 6th-12th grade students, mentors, and STEM educators in Southeastern Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Southern New Jersey.

DVSF provides a **platform for inquiry-based learning**, the pursuit of answers, and the acquisition of new skills, serving thousands of young scientists, technologists, engineers, and mathematicians from all social and economic backgrounds. The philosophy behind our programs is that students **learn science by doing science**.



KEY ACTIVITIES

Local Fairs

DVSF supports 12 “local” fairs and provides expert guidance related to strategic planning, student project review, fair organization, and other resources as needed.

Since all students can only earn the opportunity to advance to and compete at DVSF’s regional event by winning [at their local fairs](#), DVSF closely collaborates with their local fair directors and STEM leaders. DVSF organizes and hosts an Advisory Board, which is comprised of local fair directors and other school and agency leadership to share ideas, develop coordinated plans, and learn from one another related to fair administration and technologies.

BY THE NUMBERS

2,201 6th-12th grade students

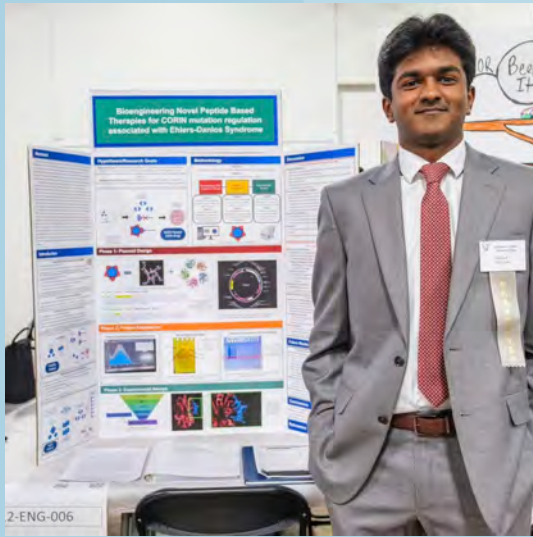
350+ teachers

285 schools



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

12th
Grade



Shreejith Krishnamoorthy

DVSF Gold Medalist

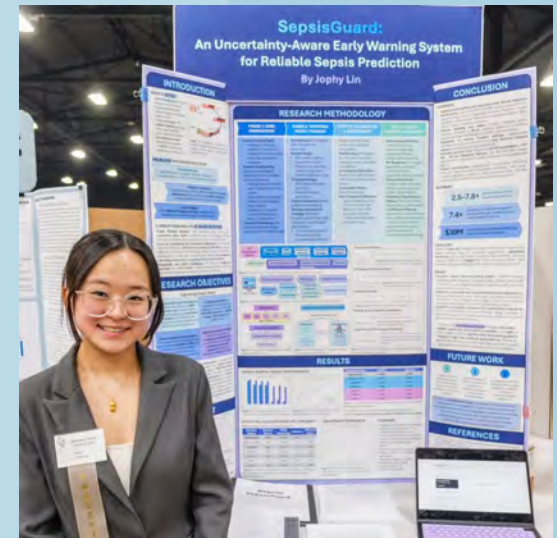
CENTRAL BUCKS
HIGH SCHOOL SOUTH



Athena Man

DVSF Silver Medalist

CENTRAL BUCKS
HIGH SCHOOL EAST



Jophy Lin

DVSF Bronze Medalist

MANALAPAN
HIGH SCHOOL

DVSF Science and Engineering Research Competitions

Students who win in their local fairs earn the right to compete at the annual Delaware Valley Science Fair at the Greater Philadelphia Expo Center in Oaks, PA each April. DVSF is comprised of five research competitions that are affiliated with Society for Science, including a fair each for 6th-8th grades, 9th grade, 10th grade, 11th grade, and 12th grade.

Individual students choose research projects from 14 STEM disciplines, including:

- behavioral/ social sciences
- biochemistry
- botany
- chemistry
- computer sciences
- consumer sciences
- earth/space sciences
- engineering
- environmental sciences
- mathematics
- medicine/ health sciences
- microbiology
- physics
- zoology

Students may also enter DVSF's event as a team of two to three students. The high school teams compete with one another in a unique competition at DVSF, regardless of grade level, where they may present projects from any of the aforementioned STEM disciplines. At the regional level, students' topics and methodologies are reviewed by the DVSF Scientific Review Committee to guarantee proper scientific safety procedures and federal guidelines are being followed.

The judging process is key, as students receive valuable feedback and project evaluations from industry experts. This input is essential for students to continue their research or to help students redefine their research for a future project.



1,036 students

980 research projects

426 volunteer judges

At the 2026 DVSF Regional Event:



229 special awards totaling

\$38,625

were given by **49 partner organizations** and professional societies



207 category awards totaling

\$15,675

were distributed by DVSF



\$26,400

in scholarships were awarded to **5 students**

Two university partners offered partial scholarships to **405 eligible 11th and 12th grade students**

National and International Competitions



2026 Thermo Fisher Junior Innovators Challenge (JIC) is a program founded and produced by the Society for Science seeking to inspire young scientists, engineers, and innovators who will solve the grand challenges of the future.

JIC is the only middle school STEM competition that leverages Society affiliated science fairs as a critical component of the STEM talent pipeline. DVSF is a part of that pipeline, and 33 of our middle school students (6th-8th grades) were eligible to advance in 2026 to compete among more than 1,800 students from 48 states, Washington, DC, and three US territories (Puerto Rico, Guam, and Virgin Islands).



Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) provides a global stage for the best and brightest young scientists and engineers around the world.

Founded on the belief that advances in science are key to solving global challenges, Regeneron ISEF supports and invests in the next generation of leading STEM thinkers who are generating ideas and acting as catalysts for the change needed to improve the well-being of all people and the planet.

12 high school DVSF medalists earned an all-expenses paid trip (funded by DVSF through generous donor support) to the 2026 Regeneron ISEF in Phoenix, AZ and competed for awards, prizes, and scholarships. Among these twelve outstanding students, DVSF presenters earned:

1 Second Place winner
(Mathematics)

2 Third Place winners
(Biomedical Engineering & Software Design)

3 Special Awards



33 middle school students (6th-8th grade)

advanced to the 2026 Thermo Fisher Scientific Junior Innovators Challenge



12 high school DVSF medalists

earned an all-expenses paid trip to the 2026 Regeneron ISEF in Phoenix, AZ.

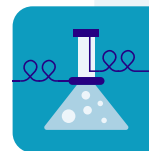


2026 College Fair

DVSF welcomed 28 colleges and universities for the 4th Annual College Fair to share information about their schools and STEM programs with DVSF student presenters.

Participants included:

- Alfred University
- Bloomsburg University
- Bryant University
- Colorado College of Mines
- Delaware Valley University
- Drexel University
- Florida Institute of Technology
- Harrisburg University of Science & Technology
- Husson University
- Jefferson University - East Falls Campus
- Keiser University
- Lawrence Technology University
- Monmouth University
- New Jersey Institute of Technology
- Penn State University - Berks Campus
- Rowan University
- Saint Joseph's University
- Stevens Institute of Technology
- Temple University - College of Engineering
- Temple University - College of Science and Technology
- United States Naval Academy
- University of Vermont
- Ursinus College
- Villanova University
- West Chester University
- West Virginia University
- West Virginia University - School of Pharmacy
- Worcester Polytechnic Institute



DVSF Science Fair Workshops

Delaware Valley Science Fairs' free science workshops for teachers and students offer a wide variety of information and resources.

Workshop topics include:

- Getting started in understanding inquiry and its application to student science research (science fairs!)
- Forming testable, investigatable questions
- Setting up a project for statistical analysis
- Appealing to judges
- Current career opportunities in health & medicine and engineering & technology

> [Learn more about Teacher and Student Workshops](#)

> To learn more about ways for your school to get involved, contact Bob Solomon at bsolomon@dvsf.org today!

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

11th
Grade

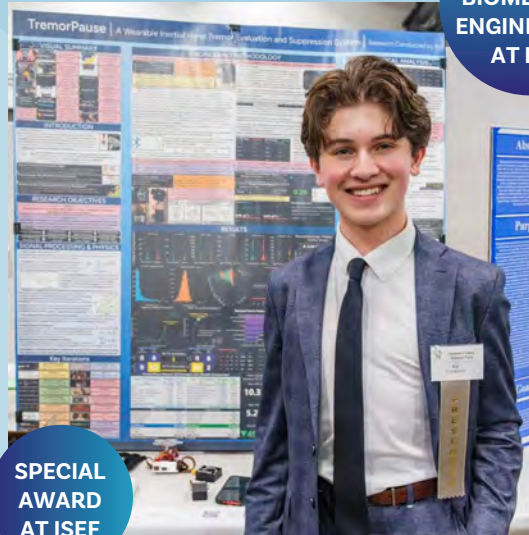
2nd PLACE IN
MATHEMATICS
AT ISEF



Zining Fan
DVSF Gold Medalist

EMMAUS
HIGH SCHOOL

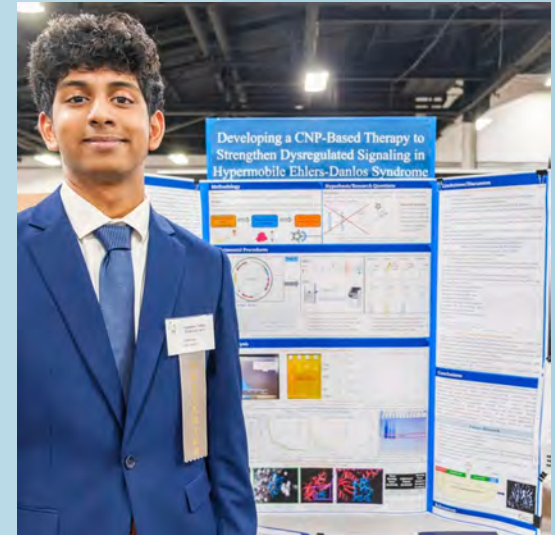
3rd PLACE IN
BIOMEDICAL
ENGINEERING
AT ISEF



SPECIAL
AWARD
AT ISEF

Kai Vajapey
DVSF Silver Medalist

MOORESTOWN
HIGH SCHOOL



Abhiram Kaakarla
DVSF Bronze Medalist

CENTRAL BUCKS
HIGH SCHOOL SOUTH

PARTNERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

For the fifth year in a row, we continued our partnership with WHYY.

WHYY Media Labs Program

> *WHYY Youth Media*

Once again, WHYY brought a talented group of Media Students to the Fair. Steve Dixon, WHYY's Senior Manager of Media Instruction, and Joe Savin, WHYY Media Instructor, attended the Fair with a team of 5 students. Attending the Fair provided them with an invaluable opportunity to sharpen their video production skills. As part of their experience, they conducted interviews with Fair student participants, capturing engaging footage of their conversations.

These interviews will be transformed into dynamic social media clips, highlighting DVSF participants and their innovative STEM projects. Developing social media content is a crucial skill for WHYY students, offering them firsthand experience in digital storytelling and the opportunity to apply their knowledge of video and audio production alongside STEM education. In addition to their own learning, they shared their expertise with two groups of middle school students, teaching them how to conduct effective interviews—an inspiring example of students learning from and empowering one another.



GET INVOLVED

DVSF is tremendously grateful for the many volunteers that make our programs and STEM research competitions possible.

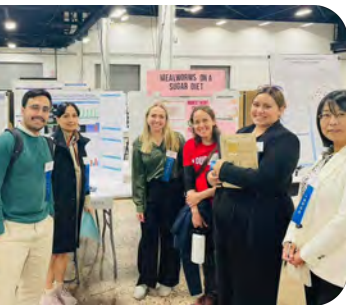
We couldn't do it without the more than 400 volunteer judges who evaluate all projects, interview student presenters, and provide invaluable feedback that may make a lifetime of difference in the students' research and careers. DVSF also relies on volunteers to assist with event coordination and to serve as mentors throughout the year. Learn more information about our volunteer opportunities and year-round initiatives below.



Mentorship Program

DVSF's community of mentors—comprised of industry specialists, parents, teachers, DVSF alumni, and sponsors—are available to advise and support students on an individual basis. The Mentorship Program is designed to give students access to more technical expertise, equipment, and guidance on developing safe procedures.

> [Learn more about the Mentorship Program](#)



DVSF Alumni Programs

DVSF Alumni actively participate in webinars, networking receptions, and panel discussions throughout the year as well as serve as coaches and mock judges with DVSF student medalists competing at ISEF. All DVSF alumni programs are virtual to accommodate our alumni who are located across the country and around the globe.

> [Learn more about DVSF Alumni Programs](#)

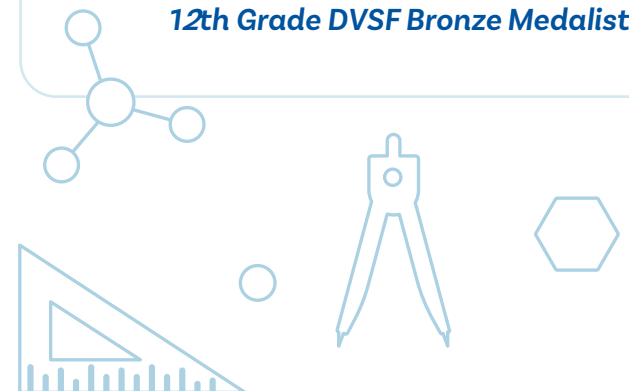
"Research is hard. There will be weeks where nothing works...where you question whether the whole thing was a mistake. My advice is to sit with that discomfort. Those are the moments that actually shape you as a scientist, not the wins."

"Persistence isn't about never doubting yourself. Rather, it's about showing up the next day anyway."

— JOPHY LIN

Manalapan High School

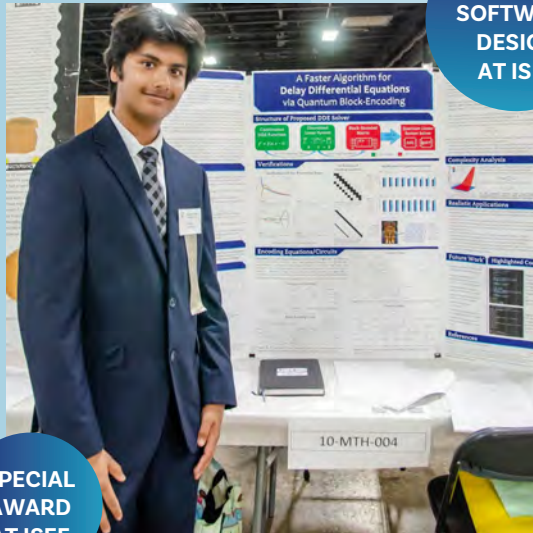
12th Grade DVSF Bronze Medalist



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

10th
Grade

3rd PLACE IN
SOFTWARE
DESIGN
AT ISEF

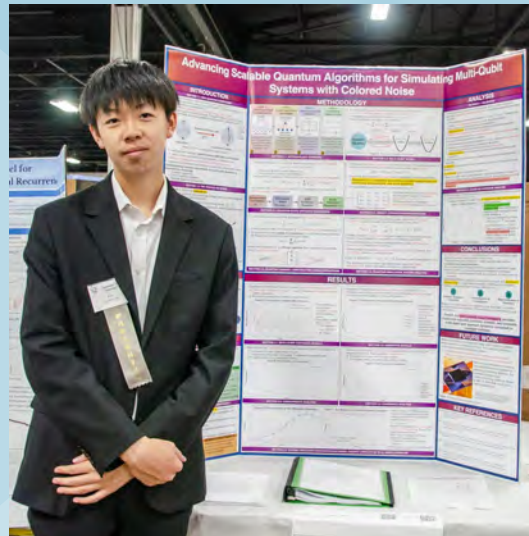


SPECIAL
AWARD
AT ISEF

Snayhin Sharma

DVSF Gold Medalist

CENTRAL BUCKS
HIGH SCHOOL EAST



Eric Guo

DVSF Silver Medalist

HIGH TECHNOLOGY
HIGH SCHOOL



Aaditya Kambli

DVSF Bronze Medalist

CENTRAL BUCKS
HIGH SCHOOL SOUTH

PROGRAM YEAR

2025-26 SUPPORTERS

Gifts received July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026

DVSF relies entirely on charitable donations to meet its annual operating budget. Philanthropic contributions for general operating support and event sponsorship provide meaningful investments in enriching and sustaining DVSF programs in Southeastern Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Southern New Jersey. DVSF gratefully acknowledges its supporters.

President's Circle

DONATIONS OF \$25,000+



Johnson & Johnson

Paul* & Aarati Martino

Major Gift Contributors

DONATIONS OF \$10,000 – \$24,999

- Bentley Systems
- Botstiber Foundation
- Constellation Energy
- Dow
- DuPont
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- Teva Pharmaceuticals
- Universal Display Corporation (OLED)
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Sustaining Gift Donors

DONATIONS OF \$1,000 – \$9,999

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- Temple University
- Thermo Fisher Scientific (Philadelphia Area Community Action Council)
- Gerald Quill*
- Saint Joseph's University
- Society for Science
- Bob & Eileen Solomon
- Robert Studt*
- Frederick* & Susan Thompson
- David* & Hildegard Lukof
- W.L. Gore & Associates, Inc.

Friends of DVSF

Supporting DVSF with gifts of \$1–\$999, a complete Friends of DVSF list is located at [DVSF.org](https://dvsf.org).

* DVSF Trustee | List updated July 28, 2026

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

9th
Grade



Adi Ayer

DVSF Gold Medalist

STRATH HAVEN
HIGH SCHOOL



Sarah Vaida

DVSF Silver Medalist

CHERRY HILL EAST
HIGH SCHOOL



Saharsha Konda

DVSF Bronze Medalist

PARKLAND
HIGH SCHOOL

2025-2026

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DVSF Management Team

Bob Solomon
Executive Director & President
bsolomon@dvsf.org

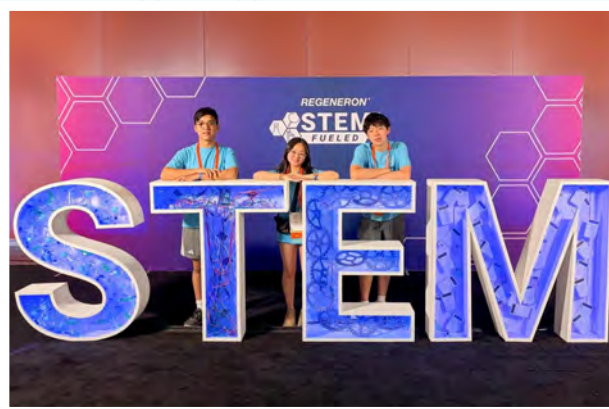
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Director, Operations
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Director, Institutional Advancement
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Director, Communications & Mentorship
bromine@dvsf.org





Igniting Innovation, Empowering Futures



DELAWARE VALLEY SCIENCE FAIRS, INC.

Inspiring future leaders and innovators and supporting STEM teachers in Southeastern Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Southern New Jersey since 1949.

dvsf.org

