

*News Release*

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**Santa Fe High School Students Take First Place in the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Supercomputing Challenge**



From left: Kathy Keith, director of Los Alamos National Laboratory’s Community Partnerships Office and Supercomputing Challenge winners Theo Goujon, Lisel Faust, Ramona Park, Rowan Cahill, and their teachers Hope Cahill and Brian Smith, and Shaun Cooper, the awards ceremony MC.

Albuquerque, N.M., April 25, 2017 – Rowan Cahill, Lisel Faust, Theo Goujon and Ramona Park of Santa Fe High School won first place for their project, “Urban Installation of Smog Reducing Materials” on Tuesday at the culmination of the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual New Mexico Supercomputing Challenge held in Albuquerque at the Jewish Community Center. Their project simulated the effects of using smog reducing materials on the air quality in a downtown congested city.

“The goal of the yearlong event is to teach student teams how to use powerful computers to analyze, model and solve real-world problems,” said David Kratzer of Los Alamos National Laboratory’s High Performance Computing division, and executive director of the Supercomputing Challenge. “Participating students improve their understanding of technology by developing skills in scientific inquiry, modeling, computing, communications and teamwork.”



Second place went to Anna Luisa Batista, Lily Shevitz, and Sylvia Holesinger of Los Alamos Middle School for their project, “Adios! Aedes Aegypti”. They created a computer model that simulates the interaction between wild female mosquitoes and genetically modified organism (GMO) males to fight the Zika disease to see how well or effectively they control the spread of Zika.

Los Lunas High School students Jen Marie Phifer, Zach Collins and Aaron Martin took third place with their project, “Rattlesnake Hunting Regulation”. They modeled impact of rattlesnake hunting on rattlesnake populations.



A complete list of all winning student teams is available at the New Mexico Supercomputing Challenge website (<http://supercomputingchallenge.org/>). All final student reports are online ([http://www.supercomputingchallenge.org/16-17/final\\_reports\\_submitted](http://www.supercomputingchallenge.org/16-17/final_reports_submitted)).

Scholarships worth more than \$10,000 were awarded at the Supercomputing Challenge Awards Ceremony. Many other awards were distributed ranging from random \$100 gifts for finishing the academic marathon to team prizes for teamwork, programming prowess, and environmental impact.

Demonstrations of technology were provided by Sandia National Laboratories, the University of New Mexico and Honeywell Aerospace during the Expo judging event at the Jewish Community Center on April 24th. Afternoon tours for Supercomputing Challenge participants were conducted at Ideum, Inc. <http://ideum.com/>, and Holman’s USA Measurement Technology Center <http://www.holmans.com/>.

In conjunction with the judging Expo and Award Events, the Supercomputing Challenge held a networking event at the National Nuclear Science and History Museum on April 24 from 5-9 PM which was sponsored by Lockheed Martin.

## About the Supercomputing Challenge

The New Mexico Supercomputing Challenge teaches computational thinking, computer modeling and 21st century skills such as research, teamwork, project management, written and oral communication to middle and high school students throughout the state. Any New Mexico middle-school or high-school student, including home schooled students are eligible to participate in the Supercomputing Challenge. Students conduct research projects on subjects of their own choosing. This year 58 teams representing 25 schools from around the state submitted final report in the Supercomputing Challenge. A full list of this year's final reports is presented at [http://www.supercomputingchallenge.org/16-17/final\\_reports\\_submitted](http://www.supercomputingchallenge.org/16-17/final_reports_submitted). The Supercomputing Challenge is sponsored by Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos National Security, LLC, Sandia National Laboratories, and generous industry partners across the country. A complete list of sponsors and supporters of the Challenge is on its website.

