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**County Science Fair draws 500 students
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The 2014 Monterey County Science and Engineering Fair concluded Sunday with a rousing awards ceremony in the University Center at California State University at Monterey Bay.

The ceremony took place as the public walked through the exhibit room from 1 to 3 p.m.

This year's fair opened Friday with more than 350 projects created by some 500 students throughout the county.

Contest categories ranged from Applied Mechanics, Material Science, and Aerodynamics to Plant Biology and Zoology. Students displayed their projects and presented their findings orally and through written journals to a team of 100 scientists who served as judges.

Science fair projects were awarded prizes in 22 Junior (Grades 6-8) and 14 Senior (Grades 9-12) Division categories, with 24 top projects becoming eligible to participate in the California State Science Fair. The top three Senior Division projects also may be eligible to participate in the [Intel](#) International Science and Engineering Fair, which will be held in May.

The year's fair was presented by the Monterey County Office of [Education](#), Naval Postgraduate School and California State University at Monterey Bay. Community partners include Taylor Farms, Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute, Blach Construction, Growers Express, Naval Postgraduate School Foundation, Dan Boersma, American Supply Co. and the William McCaskey Chapman and Adaline Dinsmore Chapman Foundation.

For a list of winners, go to thecalifornian.com.



Salinas High School student Avery Pura, 16, explains her project Saturday during the Monterey County Science and Engineering Fair at Cal State University, Monterey Bay. / Travis Geske/The Salinas Californian