



SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FAIR OF METROPOLITAN DETROIT INC.
P.O. Box 158 • Farmington, Michigan 48332-0158

May 8, 2020

Margaret Evans
Sigma XI
Margaret Evans, Sigma Xi Treasurer
2861 Gladstone
Ann Arbor, MI 48104-6432

Dear Ms. Evans

There can be no doubt that these are uncertain times. The pandemic so often feared by scientific thought-leaders has, sadly, come to pass, and the United States and the world are experiencing the types of sadness and destruction only older generation have witnessed in our lifetimes. The news most certainly is not good, and the impacts on everyone cannot be underestimated.

Because of our current situation we thought it was important to reach out to you, as a friend and supporter of the Science and Engineering Fair of Metropolitan Detroit, and provide something a little more positive. For over 63 years, our organization has been growing and nurturing talent – dedicated, bright young people that explore their interests with the hopes of learning and becoming tomorrow's science and engineering superstars. We accomplish this by hosting one of the country's highest quality science fairs, bringing together thousands of students with hundreds of judging professionals for a few days in March in the center of the global automotive industry and scientific research that is Detroit. This year, with Covid-19 nipping at our heels, and with your critical support, we were able to hold this event successfully, safely, and securely on March 11 at the TCF Center. With lots of SEFMD-manufactured hand sanitizer on hand and a wealth of enthusiasm, some of the highlights included:

- 1,433 students competed from 92 schools spread throughout the metro Detroit area.
- There were 1,208 projects across 23 categories.
- 231 judges, representing 23 different organizations, participated, with the largest judging teams coming from Ford Motor Company, Detroit Public School Community District (DPSCD) teachers, University of Michigan, Wayne State University, and Beaumont Health Systems.
- There were 31 industry awards, 8 Junior Division, 7 Senior Division, and 2 State Grand Award Winners. All students were recognized with certificates. All of the major award winners are listed in an attachment.
- Prompted and encouraged by many of our donors, we had increased participation from DPSCD schools, with one of the senior grand award winners, Princess Ortiz, representing the DPSCD.
- Hallie Jones, Detroit Public School Teacher, was named the 2020 Science Fair Teacher of the Year.

These are but a few of the highlights, and it was great to see so many students enthusiastic and interested in showing their projects, even in the shadow of the impending threat. All of the students worked hard, and we believe it was a valuable experience for everyone involved. Unfortunately, spread of the virus meant that the International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF), originally scheduled for May 10-15 in Anaheim California, was cancelled, and our Grand Award Winners did not have the opportunity to further show off their excellence and meet other smart students from around the world. It was a disappointment for all, but the right decision in the face of the deadly virus.

We wanted to keep you informed on the Fair, as a sponsor and interested party. Just as importantly, we wanted to let you know that all of this would not have been possible without you and your organization's support. From the bottoms of our hearts, and on behalf of all of the students, teachers, judges, staff, and observers, we thank you for your help in making the 2019-2020 SEFMD an event to remember. Know that, even in lockdown, we are starting to plan for next year's event, and hope that you'll stand with us then as you have this year and in prior years.

And we would like to leave you with this thought: Covid-19 is not the first virus of its kind, nor will it be the last. We hope you are as proud as we are of helping to create the next generation of problem solvers – scientists, engineers, doctors, and more -- who will be there to save the world from these plagues for generations to come. And that's something to be proud of!

Thank you, and best wishes and health to you, your family, and your entire organization!

Sincerely,

Lori A. Stec, MD
Chairman of the Board

Tim Fino and Kathy Kitzmann
Fair Directors

Thank you
TF