



## *News Release*

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### **36<sup>th</sup> annual Supercomputing Challenge Expo and Awards Ceremony showcases amazing student projects**

Often described as an [academic marathon](#), the Supercomputing Challenge pushes students to think critically, communicate, collaborate, code, and create, preparing them for tomorrow's real-world problems.

This year's top teams crossed the finish line with groundbreaking research and solutions:

First Place: **Tate D. Plohr**, Los Alamos High School, project-*Dust Busters: The Effects Of Dust Scattering On Observations Of X-Ray Binaries*

Second Place: **Jaden Rand**, Santa Fe Preparatory School, project-*Pacing Optimization for Cycling Performance Through Neural Evolution*

Third Place: **Harrison Schiek**, Albuquerque Academy, project-*Understanding 3D Printing Through Atomistic Polylactic Acid Segmental Dynamic Analysis*

As with any marathon, anyone who finishes is a winner and all participants received a certificate of persistence for completing this year's Supercomputing Challenge. Many teams were recognized for their achievements. See the [list of all the awards](#) presented to teams. The Awards Ceremony was made livelier by the distribution of items donated by sponsoring organizations, such as computer accessories and several \$50 random door prizes.

The teams presented their project to judges from around the state on Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, in the J. Robert Oppenheimer Study Center at the Los Alamos National Laboratory. After their presentations, they toured some facilities at LANL which included the Laboratory Data Communications Center, the Network Operations Center, saw a supercomputing machine room, LANL's Innovation Hub, and learned about the [Center for Integrated Nanotechnology](#). Other talks included Quantum Computing at LANL and how a team provides Visualization support to different LANL groups. An evening reception was held at the [Bradbury Science Museum](#) where Laboratory director Thom Mason stopped by to greet the participants and recognized executive director David Kratzer for his 36 years of involvement in the Supercomputing Challenge. "I am always impressed with the students in our state. We are so proud to be able to show their abilities," said David Kratzer.

Seven high school seniors who are planning to attend New Mexico Tech, University of New Mexico, Central New Mexico College, Santa Fe Community College, Harvey Mudd College, and one other out-of-state college received college scholarships totaling over \$16,000.

The two-day event was supported by 40 LANL employees who judged, escorted tours, gave demonstrations, and provide logistical support, in addition to 21 people from Sandia National Labs, New Mexico Universities and business who helped judge the teams. Several of the people were alumni of the Supercomputing Challenge, returning to help encourage the next generation.

Learn more [about the Supercomputing](#) Challenge and its [sponsors](#). New students interested in becoming involved can make plans to start the next academic year, by contacting [Consult](#) ([consult@supercomputingchallenge.org](mailto:consult@supercomputingchallenge.org)).