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## **Stamford Public Schools to Send Regional History Day Winners to State Competition**

Thirty-one students from Stamford Public Schools earned top honors in the Regional History Day Contest held on Saturday, March 27 at the Academy of Information Technology & Engineering (AITE) in Stamford. These students, representing AITE, Westhill High School, Rippowam Middle School, and Turn of River Middle School, now qualify to compete in State History Day on May 8<sup>th</sup>. First and second place winners from that competition qualify to compete in the National contest, which will take place June 13-16 at the University of Maryland.

More than 120 students from Stamford, Wilton, Ridgefield, Danbury, Norwalk, and Stratford participated in Regional History Day. Each year, more than half a million students participate in the national event. Students choose a historical topic related to the annual theme, which this year is Innovation: Impact and Change. They then participate in primary and secondary research, looking through libraries, archives, and museums. Students conduct oral history interviews and visit historic sites. They analyze and interpret sources, draw a conclusion about the significance of their topic, and then present their work in one of five ways: as a paper, an exhibit, a performance, a documentary, or a web site. The theme provides a focused way to increase student's historical understanding by developing a lens to read history, an organizational structure that helps students place information in the correct context and finally, the ability to see connections over time. Students who qualify to compete at the State level are:

### Senior Division

#### Paper

- 1<sup>st</sup> James Solis, AITE, Nikola Tesla: the Electrical Power System, Wireless Technology and the Radio  
2<sup>nd</sup> Chris Kremer, AITE, The New Deal: Civil Rights: Innovation in Connecticut  
3<sup>rd</sup> Dash Jepsen, Westhill HS, Harry Truman: An Extraordinary Legacy of Human Rights

## Regional History Day (2)

### Junior Division

#### Paper

- 1<sup>st</sup> Kevin Florio, Rippowam MS, The Gatling Gun Shoots Its Way into History
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Jeffery Orsino, Rippowam MS, The Telephone: Connecting the World Through Conversation
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Cameron Curto, Rippowam MS, The Wright Brothers Learn to Fly

#### Exhibits, Individual

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Alexi Nikolopoulos, Rippowam MS, Ball: Jams, Preserving American Tradition One Jar At a Time

#### Exhibits, Group

- 1<sup>st</sup> Helen Dempsey and Caroline Grant, Rippowam MS, TIROS, Forecasting the Future
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sarah Kinzler and Austin Senerchia, Rippowam MS, Penicillin: The Miracle Drug
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Julia Schaffer and Rachel Katz, Turn of River MS, The Simple Solution

#### Performance, Individual

- 1<sup>st</sup> Brendan George, Rippowam MS, The World Beneath Our Feet: The New York Subway System
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Matt Sweeney, Rippowam MS, The Telescope: An Extension of the Eye

#### Performance, Group

- 1<sup>st</sup> Ronal Donal, Bennett Leeds, and Alexander Littlehales, Rippowam MS, The Aqueduct
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Lindsay Swatlan and Megan O'Neill, Rippowam MS, Anesthesia: Comparison of Past and Present
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Maryana Pytyak, Codi Ann Montague and Yodna Montoya, Rippowam MS, The Camera: Bringing the World into Focus

#### Documentary, Individual

- 1<sup>st</sup> Prashant Toteja, Turn of River MS, The Change of Technology
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Donal Mahoney, Turn of River MS, Innovation of the Green Revolution

#### Documentary, Group

- 1<sup>st</sup> Brandon Temple and John Clark, Rippowam MS, Heart-Lung: Machine Beating Heart Conditions
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Meredith Addison and Eliza Engel, Turn of River MS, Innovation in Snowboarding
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Jennifer Rich and Jessica Stictzel, Rippowam MS, The Kinetoscope: Capturing the Past

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