



# The OHIO ACADEMY of SCIENCE

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## 53 OHIO SCHOOLS AND 697 TEACHERS RECEIVE GOVERNOR'S THOMAS EDISON AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN STEM EDUCATION

For release September 4, 2024

Dublin, OH (September 4, 2024) . . . **The Ohio Academy of Science** today selected 53 Ohio schools and **697** teachers to receive **The Governor's Thomas Edison Award for Excellence in STEM Education and Student Research** for their accomplishments during the 2023-2024 school year. Each school will receive a special Governor's Award certificate, and each teacher will receive a complementary membership to The Ohio Academy of Science. **The Office of Technology Investments, The Ohio Department of Development** funded the program.

The criteria for the Thomas Edison Award for Excellence are: (1) Conduct a local science fair with 12 or more students and have two or more of these students participate in the District Science Day or have 6 or more students participate in the District Science Day when no local has been conducted, (2) Students must participate in at least one more youth science opportunity beyond the classroom. The Ohio Academy of Science defines STEM education as both the mastery and integration of science technology, engineering, and mathematics for all PK-12 students. It incorporates scientific inquiry and technological design through student-focused, project-based curricula to develop skills of communication, teamwork/collaboration, creativity/innovation, critical thinking, and problem solving.

First established in 1985, the Governor's Thomas Edison Awards recognizes Ohio schools and teachers who stimulate scientific student research and technological design and extend experiential opportunities beyond traditional classroom activities. "We are proud to honor these schools and teachers for preparing students for the future through application-based learning," said Michael E. Woytek, the Academy's Executive Director. Woytek went on to say, "the students are learning and gaining confidence by solving complex problems through inquiry and technological design."

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**Ohio Schools and Teachers Receive Governor's Thomas Edison STEM Education Awards**  
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The Ohio Academy of Science initiated this educational partnership program in cooperation with **The Office of Technology Investments, The Ohio Department of Development** to recognize schools and teachers for excellence in STEM education and scientific student research.

"Today's young scientists are the architects of tomorrow's promising economic landscape, and we are so grateful for the invaluable role these schools and teachers play in supporting their pursuit of knowledge," said Lydia Mihalik, Director of the Department of Development. "Through their dedication to STEM education, these educators are empowering students to become the relentless innovators who will build a better future for Ohio."

**About The Ohio Academy of Science**

Founded in 1891, The Ohio Academy of Science (OAS) is a membership-based, volunteer-driven, not-for-profit organization. The Academy is the leading organization in Ohio to foster curiosity, discovery, innovation, and problem-solving skills. OAS members are as diverse as the science taking place in Ohio, and OAS programs support STEM research among pre-college and college students through the professional scientific community.

For more information about the OAS, please visit its website at <http://www.ohiosci.org>

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# The Ohio Academy of Science

2023-2024 The Governor's Thomas Edison Awards for  
Excellence in STEM Education and Student Research

CITY	SCHOOL NAME	TEACHER(S)
Akron	Akron Early College HS	Bambi Berger Elizabeth Chaplin Katrina Dunn Lisa Andrews Mona Kotran Timothy Hendrix Tom O'Neil Tori Peake Travis McCown Wendy Keaton
Akron	Buchtel CLC	Darlene Helems-Alaniz Derek Butler Faith Forinash Heather Hinkle Jasmyne Anderson Joshua Lingenhoel Kristin Clites Lon Cseplo Lynn Webb Matthew Derksen Matthew Simpson Samuel Haake Tiffany McCants Wyatt Daulbaugh
Akron	East CLC	Ashlet Forte Katie Labbe Linda Loya Michelle Hillier Ray Wilkins Shayla Smith

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CITY	SCHOOL NAME	TEACHER(S)
Akron	East CLC	Sonal Chandra Sonja Spencer-Jackson Thomas Ely Tracy Braho William Casterlow
Akron	Ellet CLC	Angela Demchak Ann Rose Blake Beluscak Connie Coon Danielle Streb Dawn Durbin Hannah Couch John Guidubaldi Judy Sudomir Katherine Givens Katherine Mertel Kristen Domonkos Matt Cochran Nick Harris Ron Boldry Steve Carter Tammy Dickson William Stone
Akron	Firestone CLC	Andrew Wallen Cassandra Hanna Catina Stecz Dexter Dave Jennifer Thomas Joshua Oldham Maginel Hipsley Penny Porter Samantha Wade Sara Schaefer

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CITY	SCHOOL NAME	TEACHER(S)
Akron	Firestone CLC	Scott Westphal Shannon Kotradi Tracy Bess-Wilmington
Akron	Garfield CLC	Clayton Cundiff Margaret Busker-Postlethwait Monica Speights Phil Mitchell Stephanie Martin Terence Wise
Akron	Hyre CLC	Barb Nicholson Daniel Hughes Daniel Sheets Jennifer Yeargin Jon Short Julian Janota Kayla Barrino Sarah Mizak Tamika Bates Tracey Bowman
Akron	I Promise School	Abbie Akucewich Adam Crow Adrian Daley Ali Harding Amanda Rager Amy Hynes Amy Hynes Amy Kaser Amy Rudd Andrea Scheks Aubryelen Kennedy Avery Apanius Avery Apanius

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CITY	SCHOOL NAME	TEACHER(S)
Akron	I Promise School	Bridget Casenhiser Caitlyn Lavenberg Carrie Musci Elena Soster Hannah Morber Heidi Thomas Ian Slifcak Janice Bailey Jill DeMarino Karadyn Cauffield Kay Low Kayla Whitlow Kaylah Tandy Kelley Pratt Kelley Pratt Kelli Pestello Kelsey Kent Kelsey Kent Kerry Meyer Kim Schlegal Kim Schlegal Kristen Hodas Krysten Bonacci Laura Jourdain Laura Jourdain Laura Wiedenfeld Lauren Cobb Lawrence Clark Leeda Shokalook Linea Maul Lyndsey Nopper Marianne Schauer Melissa Beitko Michelle Kendel

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CITY	SCHOOL NAME	TEACHER(S)
Akron	I Promise School	Molly Kenney Monique Swain Monique Swain Morgan Wolf Morgan Wolf Robert Hahn Sam Marinchek Sharday Suttles Sharday Suttles Shayla Smith Stephanie Arnett Stephanie Arnett Stephanie Zende Susan Mongold Tara Caporuscio Vanessa Weikhart
Akron	Innes CLC	Alecia Wydeman Alisa Malarcik Amanda Rasor Amy Memmer Angela Marshall Daniel Kennedy Daniel Reynolds Dawn Joy Dee Perdue Gretchen Cusma Jaimie Bennett Jeanette Chonko John Koulianos Julie Barda Justin Plas Kaitlyn Trent Kathy Jo Fronk

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CITY	SCHOOL NAME	TEACHER(S)
Akron	Innes CLC	Kaylee Rykalla Kristy Johnson Laura Williams Mary McClung Nicole Wright Summer Lamp Tonia Allen Tyler Gray Valerie Skelly Vanessa Vanzant
Akron	Jennings CLC	Arnita Skinner Ashley Jones Charley Nelson Chelcee Schoenbaechler Constantine Farmakidis Constantine Farmakidis Dan Schnaar David Blankenship Dawn Harper Deonna Dixon Dezirae Shutt Elaine Wulff Erin Dittmer Heather Lecharia Jennifer Bowers Joanne Bell Joanne Cook Jodi Miller Joseph Petit Kathleen Ekama Kennethian Green Kindra Beekman Makenzie Wickert



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CITY	SCHOOL NAME	TEACHER(S)
Akron	Jennings CLC	Melissa Hirschfelt Michelle Jones Molly Leahy Peyton Young Samika Thompson-Fryer Sharon Greitzer
Akron	Litchfield CLC	Aaron Ettinger Aaron Merz Ben Kantorowski Bryan Bartlett Christine Paskiet Danielle Dachtler Donell Phipps Jefferson Whited Jennifer Cooper Maurice Jackson Morgan Greene, Ph.D. Robbie Connelly Sandra Cline Scot Elkins
Akron	Miller South School VPA	Alison Rich Ashley Thomas Connie Duff David Oravec Doug Bayda Karen Hazelett Laura Feltman Laura Valenza Malia Tschantz Marissa Hughes Nichole Walje Paul Stewart Robert Marxen

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CITY	SCHOOL NAME	TEACHER(S)
Akron	Miller South School VPA	Ruth Roope Tracey Visco
Akron	National Inventor's Hall of Fame STEM MS	Adrienne Brown Angela Zumbo Angica Weaver Anne Harmon Brenda Leighton Brett Beebe Charles Page Chelsea Nicolino Christine Justiss Donna Wojcik Elizabeth Bugner Ellen Beldean Hui-Chung Chang Jackie Waterman Jason Reitz Jessica Mitchell Julie Demangeont Kallie Walker Kasey Jones Katie Beal Keri Rusinko LaTrese Sanders Michelle Crum Perkins Pringle Rachandra Decatur Rebecca Minc Robert Hargrove Sam Crews Shawn Artz Sheneeka Rodgers Sherry Hankinson

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CITY	SCHOOL NAME	TEACHER(S)
Akron	National Inventor's Hall of Fame STEM MS	Sydney Barnette Tara Davis
Akron	NIHF STEM High School	Allison Klingbeil Angela Hammelman Ben Graber Branko Nuss Brian Bennett Brianna Remenaric Colleen Schloss Dina Popa Emily Brewer Janice Weaver Jeff Caranna Jun Chen Kailey Kellehan Katie Lovell Katie Metcalf Krista Bowden Marvin Grandison Matthew Brooks Matthew York Michelle Johnson Mike Palumbo Monique Binkley Nate Cohen Sam Appleby Sammy AlDoory Sara Leffler Shane Dantz Su Hsien Hsu Tanner Hughes William Metcalf Zach Griffith

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CITY	SCHOOL NAME	TEACHER(S)
Akron	St Sebastian Parish School	Allyn Rose Anne Riede Cassie Laube Christina Friedl Debra Landis Giana D'Andrea Jennifer Bradley Jennifer Kidder Jennifer Slegus Jennifer Smee Karen Swartz Kathy Cardarelli Kristin Dekatch Lesley Starcher Maggi Blischak Mary Heffern Mary Weitzel Megan Sanford Michele Kellner Michelle Antochow Molly Burns Robert Dedinsky Sue Vernon
Anna	Anna HS	Shaun Meyer Vicki Quinter
Athens	Athens MS	Laurie Campitelli Mary Ann Hopple Melanie McGrath Stephanie List
Avon	Holy Trinity School	Amy Akosi Carolyn Triplett Jean Spinazze

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CITY	SCHOOL NAME	TEACHER(S)
Avon	Holy Trinity School	Laura Waltos Matt Hess Nancy Wild Renee Hilditch Sandy Gorenc Sara Martin Sharon Lynch Tera Cowdin
Bay Village	St Raphael School	Amy Shell Andre Ruda Ellen Skonce Jenna Clancy Madeline Bain Michelle Wise Nathaniel Tosi Nicole Graf
Bellbrook	Bellbrook MS	Allyson Geis Crystal Lohn Debi Schwieterman Emily Cline Janice Cook Jennifer Julian Kayla Guess Kyle Ferguson Lauren Duhan Lynzee Allen Shelby Herlihy
Brunswick	St Ambrose Catholic School	Angelo Gasparro Ashley Suts Caitlin Hirsch Cheryl Kubas Devon McMackin

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CITY	SCHOOL NAME	TEACHER(S)
Brunswick	St Ambrose Catholic School	Jennifer Collins Joyce McCarthy-Reed Julia Kinley Kelly Thompson Kimberly Baga Laurie Hamzik Maria Grama Mariah Wood Mark Russo Michelle Dietrich Nicole Shreve Rachel Buttitta Rachel Robson Rebecca Shultz Scott Verba Stacey Gove Susan Kautzman Wendy Parente Wesleigh Stryker
Canal Fulton	Sts Philip & James	Angela Mackey Beth Hatfield Betsy Mitchell Donna Rován Georgette Lavery Jennifer Burke Laurie McIntire Melissa Smith Michelle Hollar Molly Flory
Chardon	Chardon MS	Becky Mele Beverly Mysyk Bob Francis Brent Hilston

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CITY	SCHOOL NAME	TEACHER(S)
Chardon	Chardon MS	Jackie Brown Kayla O'Brien Melissa Bryan Nicole Diehm Shane Quin
Chardon	St Mary School	Angel Emlaw David Petrovic Donna Henry Ericka Cardenas Ken Krsolovic Korina Miljak Lee Ann Tamburrino Linda Flynn Marie Lisachenko Maryann Marra Megan Tracy Patrick Gannon Rachel Arthur Sarah Allin Thersa Merkle
Chillicothe	Bishop Flaget School	Amanda Harper Ashley Tackett Barb Apsley Casey Teets Christina Kessler Christy Fay Dana Wiseman Deborah Fyffe Dianne Cryder Jonna Johnson Laura Corcoran Leslie Fout Macie Alley

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CITY	SCHOOL NAME	TEACHER(S)
Chillicothe	Bishop Flaget School	Mindy Martin Rebekah Metzger Sarah Smith Terrina Fahnstock Xavier Newsome
Chillicothe	Unioto ES SCOPES Academy	Jenni Domo
Chillicothe	Zane Trace HS	Jason Clark Jennifer Johnston John Scott
Cincinnati	Anderson HS	Alex Bove Allyson Cassidy Corey Larrison Courtney Snider David Brandon Holly Lowden Jeff Granger Justin Good Paige Orick
Cleveland	St Adalbert Catholic School	Curtis Bixenstine
Dayton	Archbishop Carroll HS	Alexis Barnhart Amie Bailey Cody Smith Diane Keller Elizabeth Emser Gretchen Obergefel Laura Wright Laurie Fuhr Mary Ollier Meghan Mulligan Mike Lakin Todd Tayloe



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CITY	SCHOOL NAME	TEACHER(S)
Dayton	Bishop LeiboldSchool	Becky Kondritz Beth Allaire Carli Milano Cheryl Cole Jennifer Wright Jill Klimaski Joanna Freshwater Julie Conley Kathy Alexander Katie Donohue Kimberly Patti Lee Dapore Lori Noon Maria Schmiesing Mary Kincaid Victoria Haynes
Elyria	St Mary School	Angie Pluta Kerry Faris Laura Chaves Laura Krese Lauren Weis Leah Bjorn Marita Leachko Melissa Guenther Miranda Faudress Natalie Kelley Natalie Popelka Peggy Quinn Rebecca Calmer Rhonda Kloock Sharon Urig Zoey Vargo
Englewood	Miami Valley Career Tech Ctr	Jennifer Foudray

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CITY	SCHOOL NAME	TEACHER(S)
Englewood	Miami Valley Career Tech Ctr	Joseph Beringer Matt Money Paula Wathen
Hunting Valley	University School	Adam Love Amy Wujnovich Andrew Martin Bertrand Asobo Bo Montanye Bob Farrell Bob Newill Chris Ann Slye Dru McKeown Erick Carlson Erik Bunce Jason Dyke Jeff Pierce Jim Seibyl Karen Axelrod Mike Smith Mostafa Rousta Paul Moody Peter Sweeney Robin Ketcham Sara Laux Terry Harmon
Kettering	Archbishop Alter HS	Deborah Portman Jaclyn Helt Jennifer Butler Katherine Hoffmann Kathy Riegel Michael Thuente Michelle Denney Michelle Popp

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Kettering	St Charles Borromeo	Christopher Bigelow Debbie Waker Jodi Boeddeker John Bertke Katy Bundy Lisa Carlson
Lancaster	Fairfield Christian Academy	Dave Albert Diana West Heather Hollandsworth Jamie Arnold Kari Cly Kelli Frye Kelsey Brake
Lancaster	St Mary School	Anita Yaple
Medina	St Francis Xavier School	Beth Keany Carly Grey Christa Borling Christina Bresnahan Colleen O'Brien Elizabeth Cobb Haley Grunau Kaitlin Gesicki Karen Favel Kelly Carlin Kristin Musacchio Lisa Zelenka Mary McAllister Megan Sawyer Nick Burns Pam Bugner Sam Ziemer Sara Anthony

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Medina	St Francis Xavier School	Stephanie Baker Stephanie Novicky
Mt Vernon	St Vincent de Paul School	Sharon Tharp
N Ridgeville	St Peter School	Janis Van Dyke
Ottawa Hills	Ottawa Hills Junior/Senior HS	Anthony Torio Caitlin Shawaker Dan Feuerstein Diane Drabek Gerry Davis Gloria Kreischer-Gajewicz Janelle Fowler Jeremy Nixon Joan Keckler Kristin Johnson Liz Puskala Michael Leeds Nicole Silvers Patty Dowd paul Genzman Tim Adkins
Parma Hts	Incarnate Word Academy	Adam Havel Aimee Shipley Anne Hribar Cheryl DelBane Claire Kovacs Debbie Schieferle Elizabeth Grusenmeyer Emily Ruffing Hannah Cajka Hannah DeLuca Jake Halusker Jessica Battaglia

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CITY	SCHOOL NAME	TEACHER(S)
Parma Hts	Incarnate Word Academy	Jill Rolle Karen Micheli Katie Cuevas Kelly Foraker Kim Stieglemeyer Kim Vacanti Linda Harb Lois Albert Mallory Marsico Mary Beth Schram Rebecca Zullo Stacy Shalala Sue Szabo Theresa Havanec-Davey Traci Borden
Put-In-Bay	Put-In-Bay HS	Adam Danes Carol Cerny Craig Schuffenecker Dan Kowalski Jody Amsden Johnna Danes Katie Schneider Linda Rence Liz Knauer Madeline Pugh Melissa Kowalski
Salem	St Paul School	Darby Hall Dominique Moeller Sue Sowa Teresa Sisson
Sidney	Holy Angels School	Amanda Brandewie Carrie O'Leary

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CITY	SCHOOL NAME	TEACHER(S)
Sidney	Holy Angels School	Gwen Stiver
Sidney	Lehman Catholic HS	Denny Maas Jackie Homan Melissa Safreed Nick Wolters Sr. Ginny Scherer Tony Wagner Tracy Hall
Springfield	Global Impact STEM Academy	Alex Henz Alyssa Allen Alyssa Clark Amy Jo Henry Andrea Dettwiller Andrea Keener Andy Bonar Avery Colvin Bekah Miller Ben West Brandon Williams Brett West Caleb Lingenfelter Chad Fyffe Cody Wright Collin Gierke Erika Graver Ethan Hatch Georgianne Downing Heather Swensen Holly Dilts Holly Hogan Jese Shell Jon Henry Jordan Lindsey

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CITY	SCHOOL NAME	TEACHER(S)
Springfield	Global Impact STEM Academy	Josh Londergan Katy Wright Leah Ruby Nikki Turner Olivia Pflaumer Rachel Sanders Sam Klug Scott Spohler Steve Sexton Trisha Seckel
Springfield	Ridgewood School	Dan Metzger Megan Newell Paul Sauter Rachel Mc Laughlin Tami Milam
St Clairsville	East Richland Christian Schools	Aaron Mostia Amanda Dillard Beverly Green Brian Yourko Dawn George Diane Morris Eric Woods Jennifer Gooch Jessica Crumm Juanita Roxby Juliann Thornton Kama Martin Kari Yockey Larissa Orr Melissa Williams Theresa Garrett
Steubenville	Catholic Central HS/BJKM Jr. High	Bo Caviezel

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CITY	SCHOOL NAME	TEACHER(S)
Steubenville	Catholic Central HS/BJKM Jr. High	Meghan Marshall Tiffany Dobson
West Unity	Hilltop HS	Bryce Cooley Cristin Hagans Troy Cummins
Wooster	St Mary School	Alison Eby Alli Bureau Ashley Chittenden Darryl Woods James Clark Laura Marvin Mary Boyer Michael Seifried Sherri Metcalf Theresa Williams