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**NRHS Science Research Symposium Celebrates
Hard Work of Young Researchers**

NEW ROCHELLE, N.Y. (May 30, 2019) – Students in New Rochelle High School’s Science Research Program presented their end-of-year data and findings to peers, parents and others during the district’s annual Science Research Program Symposium. The event, held recently in the NRHS House 4 cafeteria and the Linda E. Kelly Theater, celebrated the hard work of more than 30 student researchers. They include seven seniors, who spent the past three years completing independent research projects.

“The Symposium is a celebration of what we’ve accomplished this year, and of our seniors’ four-year journeys,” teacher and program advisor Jeff Wuebber said at the May 23 event. “It’s a massive undertaking to be in the Science Research Program – a lot of work, a lot of time and effort – and these students deserve the recognition!”

Students accepted to the New Rochelle Science Research Program participate in a rigorous course of independent study on a research topic of their choosing. The program is an additional pursuit to students’ general curriculum science classes, and is open to anyone in Regents or AP science courses. Freshman may apply for the Pre-Science Research Program, a direct feeder for the larger, three-year program.

The main program includes two summer placements during which students conduct research alongside scientists, medical professionals and graduate students at institutions that have included NY Medical College, Albert Einstein School of Medicine, New York University, The New School, Memorial Sloan Kettering and Columbia University. During the academic year, students analyze data from their summer work, write research papers and create presentations to share their data and findings.

“What drew me to the program was having access to a research institution and learning how to do professional-level research at such a young age,” said senior Casandra Chen, who spent last summer in a WHO-funded lab working on a project to create a new mental healthcare infrastructure for Mozambique and other Portuguese speaking African nations. “You don’t always have an opportunity to do that, and I knew it was one that I wanted to take advantage of.”

The program has experienced a surge in popularity in recent years. With 37 students currently enrolled from grades 10 through 12, Wuebber is preparing to welcome 38 sophomores and 60 freshman next fall. Wuebber says that a “passion for science” is the primary requirement he looks for in program applicants.

That passion has brought students success. This year alone, Science Research Program students have won more than 30 awards in local, regional and national competitions. In June, nine juniors from the program will travel to SUNY Oswego to compete against students from 70 other countries in the International Genius Olympiad.

The devotion is demonstrated by students such as senior Leora Segal, who presented her research on infantile spasms, a very rare form of epilepsy, which she conducted at New York Medical College.

“You can study whatever you want, and you’re studying it at such a deep level, in a graduate level research lab,” said Segal. “I’ve gotten experiences that I don’t think many public or private school students have – working one-on-one with actual research scientists, learning how to write a research paper, reading these really difficult journal articles and being able to present what I learned at a very high level.”

About the City School District of New Rochelle

With nearly 11,000 students in 10 schools, the City School District of New Rochelle, through an active partnership amongst community, parents, staff and students, provides a high-quality and challenging education for every child, in a safe, nurturing environment that embraces rich diversity and drives success.