

CITIZENS FOR NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY AWARENESS

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May 1, 2023
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Ten Area High Schoolers Win Scholarships from 2023 CNTA Essay Contest

Ten area high school students won scholarships resulting from their winning entries in the 2023 Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness (CNTA) High School Essay Contest. One student won \$1,000, two won \$750 apiece, and the remaining seven students won \$500 apiece.

The winners of the 17th annual writing contest are:

\$1,000 Winner

- Kaeleigh Seigler, Aiken Scholars Academy, for “Nuclear Technology in Medicine”

\$750 Winners

- Alya Akhtar, Lakeside High School, for “Nuclear Technology Revolutionizing Today and Tomorrow’s Medicine”
- Monica Burns, Richmond County Technical Career Magnet School, for “Nuclear Technology in the Medical Industry”

\$500 Winners

- Blaise Bell, Richmond County Technical Career Magnet School, for “How Nuclear Technology has improved the Medical Field”
- Paige Dayton, South Carolina Governor’s School, for “Nuclear Science in Medicine”
- Treshon Hinkins, Lucy C. Laney High School, for “Impact of Nuclear Technology on Medicine”
- John Ledbetter, South Aiken High School, for “Clean Energy Sources and Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions”
- Kaitlyn Redd, Williston Elko High School, for “Nuclear Technology in the Medical Field”
- Maria Reyes, Mead Hall Episcopal School, for “Nuclear Medicine and How it Saves Lives”
- Alan Sairany, Greenbrier High School, for “The Impacts and Implications of Nuclear Energy on Emerging Technologies”

The goal of the CNTA Essay Contest is to increase high school student awareness of nuclear technologies and their impact on society. Each student picked one of three topics for this year’s contest:

- *There are numerous applications of nuclear technology in the medical industry, such as radioisotopes for medical diagnostics or therapies. Some of these applications have been around for many years, and other innovations are being developed. Discuss at least two (2) uses of nuclear technology in medicine and their impact on the medical industry.*
- *There are many differences between the generation of greenhouse gases from various energy sources, such as wind, solar, and fossil fuels compared to nuclear energy. Discuss the differences in greenhouse*

gas generation between these sources and nuclear energy. Consider the “cradle-to-grave” cycle of each energy source.

- *Nuclear technology is being used in emerging technologies, such as supporting habitation in space, and producing energy via small-modular reactors and micro-reactors. Discuss the use of nuclear technology in emerging technologies and the potential impacts of these uses on society*

“We were very impressed with the quality of the essays we received from all the students this year,” said Dr. Marissa Reigel, Chair of the CNTA Essay Committee. “It was exciting to see the breadth of information the students included in their essays.”

The contest was open to high school juniors and seniors in Aiken, Allendale, and Barnwell counties in South Carolina and Burke, Columbia, and Richmond counties in Georgia; homeschool students; and students of CNTA member families. The winning students, their parents, and school representative will be honored guests and recognized at an upcoming CNTA event later this year.

Over the course of the Essay Contest program, CNTA has awarded over \$70,000 to deserving students.

For more information, call CNTA at 803-649-3456 or email at cnta@bellsouth.net. CNTA is an Aiken-based charitable educational organization dedicated to providing facts about nuclear topics and educating the public on nuclear issues.