

Student Wins STEM Scholarships for Food Chemistry Research



Above: Briana Young with NDIA-Michigan scholarship selection committee STEM chair

On May 19, 2014, Briana Young, a senior at Detroit Edison Early College of Excellence and a research scientist in the Ecotek Lab Program was awarded two financial scholarships from the National Defense Industries Association (NDIA). The scholarships will be used to help her cover college expenses.

Briana’s submission focused on how she used her understanding of food chemistry to reduce glucose concentration in food products and how she leveraged her experiences at the United Nations and in the lab to develop a community outreach program to help combat the onset of diabetes in youth- SugarFree Foods.

The NDIA received submissions from over 300 applicants throughout the State of Michigan of which 9 awardees were selected. Many of the applicants had outstanding grade point averages (4.0), were very active in their high school and had earned high scores on standardized tests (ACT, SAT).

During the ceremony, Steve Gordon, the chair of the STEM scholarship selection committee, stated that Briana’s application stood out because it went beyond the classroom; involved solving a real world problem; and considered the application of science from a global perspective.

In addition to receiving the scholarships from the NDIA, Briana has been awarded a four year academic scholarship from Central Michigan University and a financial grant award from the Federation of American Consumers and Travelers to expand her SugarFree Foods program.



NDIA scholarship recipients with members of the STEM selection committee



Briana Young and her father – Keith Young Sr-holding scholarship certificates

About the Ecotek Science Program

Ecotek is a science research lab program for young inventors and researchers in grades 5 thru 12. Student scientists work on projects aligned with the issues being addressed by world leaders at the United Nations. To learn more about Ecotek Lab go to <http://www.ecotek-us.com>