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Girls sweep Intel's top scholarships

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Girls stole the show yesterday at the Intel International Science & Engineering Fair's grand awards ceremony at the Cleveland Convention Center.

Elena Glassman of Doylestown, Pa., Lisa Glukhovskiy of New Milford, Conn., and Anila Madiraju of Montreal, Quebec, won the Intel Foundation Young Scientist Award, which is the fair's top prize.

Each student receives a \$50,000 scholarship and a computer. This is the first time all three of the awards went to girls.

Lisa, 17, examined the distance between Earth and asteroids. Elena's project studied brain waves. Anila, 17, researched a way to use genetic material to kill cancer cells.

"It's amazing," said Elena, 16. "I'm standing where I wanted to be in ninth grade. It's unreal."

Her brother, Nick Brown of San Francisco, said Elena didn't take home the big prize from two previous Intel fairs but refused to give up.

"I don't think anything more amazing has happened to my family," he said.

The winning trio is among 1,300 students who competed for \$4 million in prizes and scholarships this week at the Convention Center. The fair had 15 science categories plus a category for teams.

Prizes ranged from \$500 to thousands of dollars. More than 500 students received awards, with Ohio students earning \$220,000 in scholarships and prizes.

At the grand ceremony yesterday afternoon, students waved flags from their countries and screamed for their classmates and new friends. Teacher Guoshou Zeng, of the People's Republic of China, cried and raised his fist in the air after being awarded a \$20,000 grant for a teaching project.

Patty Hunt, a teacher at Hathaway Brown School in Shaker Heights, was also excited.

"I could not be more proud," Hunt said. "It's inspiring to see these young women stick with it."

Collectively, five Hathaway Brown students won \$121,000 in scholarships and prizes. Kristin Butler, a junior at the school, accounted for \$60,500 of that, the most of any Ohio student.

"It's nice to know people appreciate your work," said Kyra Sedransk, a senior at the school.

Students from about 40 countries competed in the fair, which moves to Portland, Ore., next year.

The fair, which is 54 years old, is administered by Science Service, a nonprofit educational organization. Intel has sponsored the fair for seven years.

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