

**WASHINGTON, DC – September 6, 2017--** Broadcom Foundation and Society for Science & the Public today announced the selection of the Top 300 competitors in the seventh annual Broadcom MASTERS® — the nation's most prestigious Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) competition for middle school students. The Broadcom MASTERS, a program founded and produced by the Society for Science & the Public, seeks to inspire young scientists, engineers and innovators who will solve the grand challenges of the future.

These finalists were chosen from 2,499 projects and will each receive awards. From these 300 finalists, 30 will be chosen for an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, DC in October to display their project in Union Station. During this competition, these 30 students will compete for more than \$100,000 in prizes.

Congratulations to our nine Louisiana finalists, three of whom are from Region 1 Science and Engineering Fair.

### List of Louisiana Finalists –

- **Clary, Joseph** *Grade: 8th*  
*Affiliate Fair ID:* USLA02\* - Region I – Shreveport Region  
Caddo Parish Middle Magnet School, Shreveport, LA  
*Project Title:* Warning: Baby on Board
- **Herke, Colin** *Grade: 8th*  
*Affiliate Fair ID:* USLA01\*-Region 7 – Baton Rouge Region  
Westdale Middle School, Baton Rouge, LA  
*Project Title:* Sizing PCR Amplicons Using YoYo-1 Dye and the ABI 3130xl DNA Sequencer
- **Pizzolato, Rachel** *Grade: 7th*  
*Affiliate Fair ID:* USLA08 – Region 9 – New Orleans Region  
John Curtis Christian, River Ridge, LA  
*Project Title:* Generating Electricity by Harnessing Air that Flows Around a Skyscraper Using Bernoulli's Principle and the Venturi Effect with Special Emphasis on Biomimicry
- **Deras, Monica** *Grade: 8th*  
*Affiliate Fair ID:* USLA50 – LSEF – State  
Kenilworth School of Science and Technology, Baton Rouge, LA  
*Project Title:* Enhanced Photothermal Response of Nanoparticles for Photothermal Cancer Therapy
- **Fastring, Reilly** *Grade: 6th*  
*Affiliate Fair ID:* USLA50 – LSEF - State  
Little Oak Middle School, Slidell, LA  
*Project Title:* Determining the Temperature Coefficient of Resistance of Copper by Using Lenz's Law

- **Jeyaseelan, Abhirami** *Grade: 8th*  
*Affiliate Fair ID: USLA50 – LSEF - State*  
Glasgow Middle School, Baton Rouge, LA  
*Project Title: The Hidden Dangers of Secondhand Smoke*
- **Matt, Gracie** *Grade: 8th*  
*Affiliate Fair ID: USLA50 – LSEF - State*  
Lafayette Christian Academy, Lafayette, LA  
*Project Title: The Pampered House*
- **Modi, Ashini** *Grade: 7th*  
*Affiliate Fair ID: USLA50 – LSEF - State*  
Caddo Parish Middle Magnet School, Shreveport, LA  
*Project Title: Big Bang to Big Freeze: Lifting the Veil on Hubble's Constant to Shed New Light on the Fate of Our Universe*
- **Tandon, Eshika** *Grade: 6th*  
*Affiliate Fair ID: USLA50 – LSEF - State*  
Caddo Parish Middle Magnet School, Shreveport, LA  
*Project Title: Can Anti-Cancer Agents, Turmeric and Simvastatin, Decrease Germination and Protein Content in Seeds?*