Science Students Capture 4th and 5th Place in State Fair

Engineering and chemistry investigations by University School 8th grade students Elizabeth Cornfeld and Danielle Bimston garnered state awards. Both students are first-time state qualifiers who captured first place wins at this year’s Broward County Science Fair before moving on to take state-level honors.

“Dome Sweet Dome” by Elizabeth Cornfeld, 4th Place Winner

*Interview excerpts:*

“A geodesic dome is the only structure that gets stronger as it gets bigger. Because it is made up of triangles, it is able to equally spread the weight.

“I had to build six structures. I made a small and large geodesic dome as well as a small and large pyramid and cube structure. I put weights on each of the structures and recorded when the structure started to fail, and when it failed completely. For all the small structures, they were stronger than the larger ones except for the geodesic dome. So the larger pyramid was a lot weaker than the smaller version, and same with the cube. [This experiment shows why] geodesic homes are so strong. Epcot is a big geodesic sphere – you can really use the geodesic design for any kind of structure including a house or greenhouse.

“I like that science is hands-on, and that I get to experiment and mess up sometimes. I get to use critical thinking and figure out how I am going to change what I messed up and make it better.”

Middle Students Perform Well at County Level

All University School Middle School students who qualified also placed in this year’s Broward County Science Fair.

1st Place (Advanced to State Competition per this Article)
Elizabeth Cornfeld & Danielle Bimston

3rd Place Winners
Sam Rier – Detecting Danger in the Lunch Bag
Carolina Kapp – Cover Up Fabrics as Sunscreen
Team Project: Chase Winston, Sophia Rabassa & Kaitlin Feinberg – Ants in Action Cause a Reaction

4th Place Winners
Team Project: Sam Bennett, Connor Starkman & Michael Aji – Cell Phone Radiation