



KENILWORTH SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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Hundreds attend first statewide STEM Expo at Kenilworth

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News Release

Louisiana's first statewide STEM Expo featuring middle school students drew about 500 students, parents, supporters and fans to [Kenilworth Science and Technology Charter School](#) on Saturday, November 2.



Sr. Chief Navy Counselor Aaron Johnson, middle, and a colleague check out a student's exhibit

The Louisiana STEM Expo was open to all middle school students in Louisiana and was sponsored by [L-STEM, the Louisiana STEM Initiative](#). STEM stands for science, technology, engineering and mathematics and is cited by many education and economic experts as a key factor that will determine the United States' future technological and workforce development success. Kenilworth, the host school for the event, hosted a city-wide STEM expo last year that showed similar success.

Students from public, private and charter schools offered dozens of demonstrations and projects, including an inflatable set of pig lungs, a solar power demonstration and a mirror that appeared to have an infinite number of lights.



Jalen Robertson of McKinley Middle shows how a set of pig lungs works

The expo also featured special guests [Louisiana Commissioner of Higher Education Dr. Jim Purcell](#), former NASA Astronaut [Duane "Digger" Carey](#) and Senior Chief Navy Counselor Aaron Johnson, all of whom addressed the students and parents.

Dr. Purcell congratulated the students and their parents for participating in the expo.

"STEM education is so important to the development of students at this stage in their academic careers," Dr. Purcell said. "Events and programs like the STEM Expo support these students and encourage them to pursue college and professional careers."

In addition to L-STEM, the expo sponsors include [The Mosaic Company](#), the [U.S. Navy](#) and the [Louisiana Board of Regents](#). Partners include the [Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development](#), the [Greater Baton Rouge Industry Alliance](#), [Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality](#), [LSU-Center for Advanced Microstructures and Devices \(CAMD\)](#), the [Louisiana Chemical Association](#), [Pennington Biomedical Research Center](#), [LSU-College of Human Sciences and Education](#), [Black Alliance for Educational Options](#) and the [LSU Cain Center](#).

The expo award winners, their schools and their projects are:

Rank	Student	School	Project Title
First	Sebastian Deras	Kenilworth Science and Technology	Running colors and running peppers
First	Deepti Vaidyanathan & Carol Hou	Glasgow Middle	Crime Busters1
First	Brianna Palmer	McKinley Middle Magnet	Hand Crank Generator
First	Venkata Siva Dasuri	Parkview Elementary	Healthy Food for Healthy Body
Second	Eren Kizilkaya & Rohin Gilman	Glasgow Middle	Mousetrap Vehicle
Second	Desirae Gardner	Kenilworth Science and Technology	Bell ring jar
Second	Kiauna Rollins	McKinley Middle Magnet	Infinity Mirror
Second	Kelli Hu & Tasnia Monir & Priya Gilman	Glasgow Middle	Experimental Curiosity
Third	Alex Yakimov & Jenny Kim & Hannah Elkholy	Glasgow Middle	Twinkies
Third	Augusta Winfield	Kenilworth Science and Technology	Sea Pearch
Third	Jalen A. Robertson-Hebrard	McKinley Middle	BioQuest Inflatable

Third	Kamryn Miles & Kirsten Smith	Magnet McKinley Middle Magnet	Lung Kit Baby Diaper
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Kenilworth Science and Technology Charter School is a charter school under the state of Louisiana's Recovery School District. Formerly a part of the East Baton Rouge Parish school system, Kenilworth was converted to a charter school in 2009 and is operated by a Louisiana-based, non-profit school board as a state-sanctioned charter school. Kenilworth has produced four consecutive years of improvement in school performance scores and in LEAP test scores. Specifically, the percentage of students performing at grade level for all grades and subjects grew from 40.6 percent in 2009 to 59.4 percent in 2013.

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