

**U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Chairman Christopher T. Hanson
Remarks for
2021 Virtual Montgomery County Science Fair Ceremony
April 8, 2021**

Thank you, Luis, for those kind words. Good morning everyone, my name is Christopher Hanson and I am the Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. It's great to connect with all of you today.

On behalf of the Commission, I am pleased to recognize and congratulate you on your selection as one of the winners at the 2021 Virtual Montgomery County Science Fair. This accomplishment takes devotion to academics, commitment to excellence, and above all hard work.

As some of you know, the agency has supported the Montgomery County Science Fair for over 12 years. Every year, ScienceMONTGOMERY organizes the Montgomery Area County Science Fair, which is affiliated with the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair. Its purpose is to encourage and promote interest in STEM education in the youth of the Area.

The Montgomery County Science Fair had 31 schools representing 14 high schools and 17 middle schools. The students represent both public and private schools, and I understand the winners had outstanding presentations.

But in addition to outstanding students, the NRC staff volunteered to judge the science fair projects, along with about 50 area science, technology, and government organizations. I am very proud of these volunteers because I understood they worked all week and even on the weekend to judge them virtually. As a result, they awarded the top four projects from middle school and three from the high school, which you will hear about shortly.

I want to conclude by noting that we believe in inspiring young women and men to join the STEM workforce. For this reason, every year, the Commission recognizes and honors young scientists, like yourselves, who may one day make a valuable contribution to the nuclear field. We hope that this recognition and the academic year ahead is another step in your journey to joining the STEM workforce.

STEM is incredibly important to humanity because it provides relevant and real-world exposure to important math, science, technology, and engineering concepts, while also preparing students for the future needs of our society. Science and technology are constantly evolving, and students who pursue a STEM education will have exciting opportunities to make a difference and build a better future for generations to come.

Once again, I want to congratulate each of you on your accomplishment, and I wish you continued success.