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## **Eight Jericho Students Named Siemens Semi-Finalists**

*Represents Highest School Total in New York State*

By Denise Nash

Eight Jericho High School students were recently named semifinalists in the prestigious national Siemens Competition in Math, Science and Technology, revealing the brightest high school minds.

The students are Anuhita Basavaraju, Sonia Joshi, Preeti Kakani, Grace Kim, Brendan Liu, Neil Mehta, Kristin Wong and Peter Zhou.

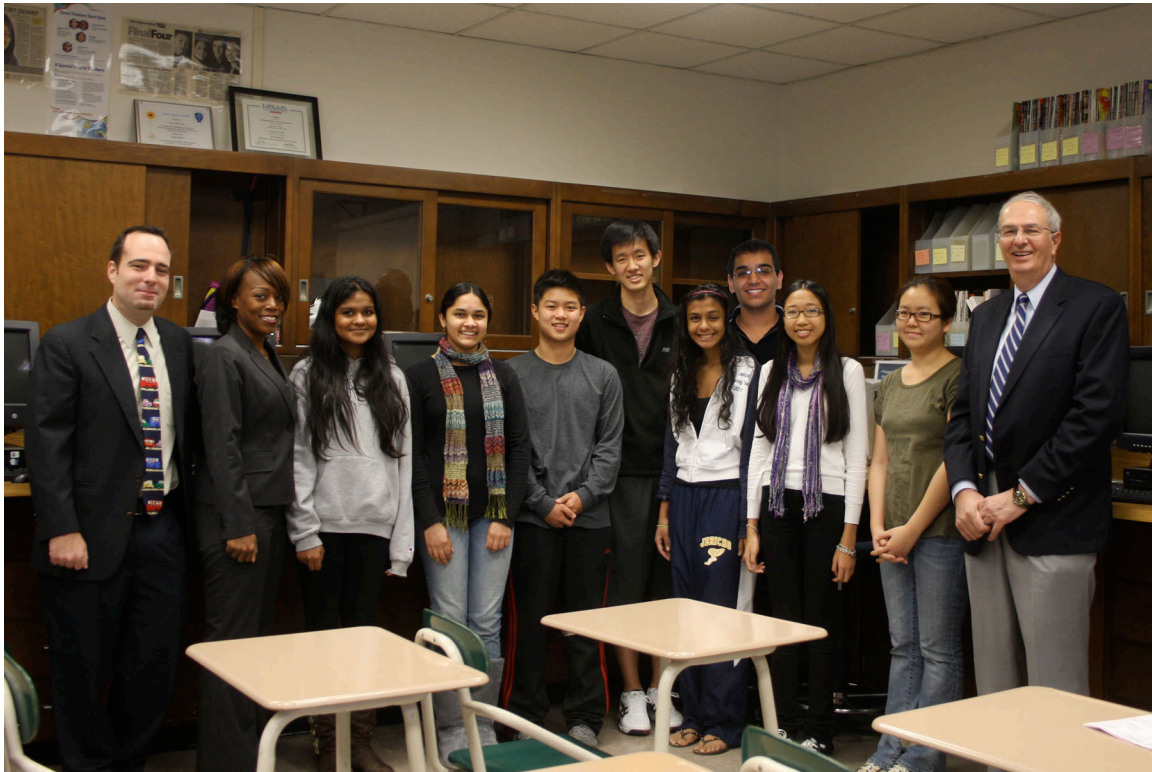
The eight students from Jericho represent the highest total of students from one school in New York State. There were 57 semifinalists and 13 regional finalists in New York and Jericho had 8 of the total 70 state winners.

“At Jericho High School, our students' success is resultant of the combined effort of the students, teachers, parents, board of education and administration,” said Jericho High School Science Research Coordinator Serena McCalla. “These factors, sometimes left out of the scientific method, are necessary instruments for achievement in the competitive secondary school science research arena. Congratulations Siemens Competition 2011 semifinalists. Successful students ask better questions, and as a result, they reach better conclusions.”

Projects titles were: **Preeti Kakani** and partner **Anuhita Basavaraju** (10<sup>th</sup> grade) – *Synaptic organization of feedforward thalamocortical projections to primary visual cortex*; **Kristin Wong** and partner **Brendan Liu** (11<sup>th</sup> grade) – *Investigation of PEGDA and PAN for Filtration and Heavy Metal Adsorption*; **Peter Zhou** and partner **Sonia Joshi** (11<sup>th</sup> grade) *Extracellular histones enhance LPS induced cytokine production*; **Grace Kim** and partner Jung Uk Sohn (Peddie School) (11<sup>th</sup> grade) – *Implications in the Alzheimer's disease through Salt-directed Conversion of Unfolded Peptides into Alpha-helices*; **Neil Mehta** (12<sup>th</sup> grade) – *Co-restoration of Type III Nrg1 back signaling through depolarization: Implications for schizophrenia*.

The nation's leading original research competition in math, science and technology for high school students, the Siemens Competition is administered annually by the College Board, and awards college scholarships ranging from \$1,000 to \$100,000 in individual and team categories. An all-time record of 2,436 students registered to enter the 2011-12 Siemens Competition for an unprecedented 1,541 projects submitted.

“The Siemens Competition has a proud history of attracting awe-inspiring research projects from American's best and brightest and we are pleased to see that this year is no exception,” said Jeniffer Harper-Taylor, president of the Siemens Foundation. “We can all take heart in the remarkable work being done by this next generation of young innovators who will surely advance out nation's leadership in science and technology.”



***Siemens Semi-finalists Anuhita Basavaraju, Sonia Joshi, Preeti Kakani, Grace Kim, Brendan Liu, Neil Mehta, Kristin Wong and Peter Zhou are congratulated by High School Principal Joseph Prisinzano (left), Jericho High School Science Research Coordinator Serena McCalla (second from left) and Science and Technology Curriculum Associate Frank DiMartino (right).***