

STEM Day 2025  
Alabama A&M University  
Awardee List

Undergraduate Poster Prize Winners				
Prize	Student (Submitter)	Co-Author(s)	Faculty Mentor(s)	Title
1	Darius Howlett	Letodric Jordan, Amber Jackson, and Jaylan Hayes-Fain	Dr. Shujun Yang	Design and Simulation of Microwave Subsystems
	Kendra Minniefield	Opeyeoluwa Olanipekun, Tavionne Stigger, Nia Thompson, and Raziq Yaqub	Dr. Raziq Yaqub	Pressure Sensing Device for Individuals with Paralysis
	Annabeth Defoe	Heather Howell, and William Stone	Dr. William Stone	Insect Abundance and Diversity in Three Habitat Types on the Winfred Thomas Agricultural Station in Northern Alabama
	Caleel Holifield	Heaven Stewart, Amirah El-Amin, Katelyn Boyle, Martha Verghese	Drs. Heaven Stewart, Amirah El-Amin, Katelyn Boyle, Martha Verghese	Development of High-protein Energy Bites to Support Pre-Workout Performance and Post-Workout Recovery: Utilizing Lavender
2	Mikaylah Pratt	Tayla Oliver, Damari Bende	Dr. Mebougna Drabo	The Flash Radiography Shield
	Oluwatimileyin Ogundele	Stylianios Fakas	Dr. Stylianios Fakas	Functional Analysis of ATP-Citrate Lyase Subunits in <i>Y. lipolytica</i> Through Targeted Gene Disruption
	Paige Martin	Lisa Dalrymple-Mckitt, and Armitra Jackson-Davis	Dr. Lisa Dalrymple-Mckitt	Investigating Toxicity, Reproductive outcomes, and Antioxidant Potential of Selenium Nanoparticles on <i>Caenorhabditis elegans</i> In Vivo.
	Jackson Cooper	Chasity Harris, Cameron Mahand, and Ed Pearson	Dr. Ed Pearson	SmartSensei: An AI-Powered Learning Assistant for Quality Education
	Kermit Booker		Dr. Showkat Chowdhury	Variable Multilayer Insulation Project
3	Ambreal White	Drs. Kendall Lee, Josh Clevenger, and Jeanette Jones	Dr. Jeannette Jones	Preparing DNA for Southeastern Blueberry Pangenome
	Jalen Whisenhunt	Ajani Brooks and Dr. Elica Moss	Dr. Elica Moss	Impact of Climate Variability on Pathogen Persistence and water quality in the Indian Creek Watershed
	Tanner Herring	Dr. Shaik Hossain	Dr. Shaik Hossain	The Effects of Loblolly Pines on Tree Biodiversity
	Uchenna Justin	Ehi Oko, Itiza Subedi, and Andrew Pham	Dr. Andrew Pham	Network Resilience of Fixed Dominating Sets Under Edge Failure
	Winner Igbogbo	Taniya Rainge, Tyhane Bedgood, and Tyesha L. Farmer, PhD	Dr. Tyesha L. Farmer	Genomic Characterization of Microbial Isolates from the Mars 2020 Rover Spacecraft

Graduate Poster Prize Winners				
Prize	Student (Submitter)	Co-Author(s)	Faculty Mentor(s)	Title
1	Elijah Nix	Sueme Ueno, Renan Souza, Walid Korani, Anthony Trieu, Kankshita Swaminathan, Josh Clevenger, and Xianyan Kuang	Dr. Xianyan Kuang	Validating Candidate R Genes and Transforming <i>Arachis hypogaea</i> L. for Aflatoxin Resistance
2	Joshua Stanley	Pradeepa Hirannaiah, Therese Mitros, Wren Jenkins, Jer' Michael Nix, Dr. Xianyan Kuang, Jesse Morrison, Charis Harrison, Kerrie Barry, Chris Plott, Jerry Jenkins, Jeremy Schmutz, Jane Grimwood, Ernst Cebert, Brian S. Baldwin, Erik J. Sacks, Daniel S. Rokhsar, and Kankshita Swaminathan	Dr. Xianyan Kuang	Genetic and Phenotypic Understanding of Stem Quality and Leaf Abscission in <i>Miscanthus</i>
3	Karthik Medabalimi	Harpreet Singh, Nedra Montgomery, Judith Boateng, Rajwinder Kaur, Martha Verghese	Drs. Harpreet Singh, Nedra Montgomery, Judith Boateng, Rajwinder Kaur, Martha Verghese	Mechanistic evaluation of Curry leaves ( <i>Murraya Koneigii</i> ) extracts in modulation of antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, and apoptotic pathways in 3T3-L1 adipocytes for potential in anti-obesity applications

Graduate Oral Presentation Prize Winners				
Prize	Student (Submitter)	Co-Author(s)	Faculty Mentor(s)	Title
1	Angela Davis	Clyde Varner, Padmaja Guggilla, Sijan Mainali	Drs. Clyde Varner & Padmaja Guggilla	Investigating Optimal Polyvinylidene Fluoride (PVDF) Concentrations For Its Applications as Efficient Smart Material
2	Katelyn Boyle	Terica Curtis, Rajwinder Kaur, Joshua Herring, Nedra Montgomery II, Martha Verghese	Dr. Martha Verghese	Development of a Functional Food Snack Product Utilizing Antioxidant Rich <i>Spirulina</i> Microalgae and Bilberry
3	Elijah Adedeji	Amari Williams, Karishma Gupta, Angel Reeder, Stephen Babalola (PhD)	Dr. Stephen Babalola	Growth and Characterization of Cesium Hafnium Chloride (CHC) Scintillator Crystal from Melt

Judges' Favorite Award				
Prize	Student (Submitter)	Co-Author(s)	Faculty Mentor(s)	Title
1	Thabo Ibrahim Traore	Terry Miller	Ms. Terry Miller	Media Influence on AI Perception: A Sentiment Analysis of News Narratives