



News Release

5050 Oakland Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63110

Voice: 314.289.4400
Fax: 314.289.4420

slsc.org

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Contact:

Mindy Peirce
314.286.4683
mindy.peirce@slsc.org

St. Louis Teacher Wins 2018 Loeb Prize for Excellence in Teaching Science and Mathematics

Saint Louis Science Center honors five local teachers at awards ceremony

ST. LOUIS (May 15, 2018) – The Saint Louis Science Center is proud to announce that Nathan Williams, science teacher at Bayless Junior High School, is this year’s recipient of the 2018 Saint Louis Science Center and Carol B. and Jerome T. Loeb Prize for Excellence in Teaching Science and Mathematics. Williams and four finalists received their awards today at a ceremony at the Saint Louis Science Center’s James S. McDonnell Planetarium.

“Science is important not only because it presents us with a body of facts to help us understand our world, but also because it offers a way of thinking that allows us to get closer to the truth,” said Williams. “Both of these concepts are valuable in so many facets of life – from deciding what foods to eat and how to live, to building up to questions like how we provide energy to the people of our planet while simultaneously ensuring that the planet’s ecosystems are sustained.”

This year’s other winners are:

- 2nd Place: Julie LaConte, Rossman School
- Runner Up: Kristina Bunyard, Crestview Middle School
- Runner Up: Trey Fisk, Lutheran High School South
- Runner Up: William Henske, Maplewood Richmond Heights Middle School

“Great teachers are at the center of a strong community, and all of our finalists demonstrate expertise in their subject areas, innovative teaching styles including the use of technology, and personal commitment to the overall well-being of their students. I am grateful for the opportunity to recognize these teachers for the work they do to enable their students to

become the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) leaders of tomorrow,” said Carol Loeb, a math teacher for 55 years, who along with her husband, the late Jerome T. Loeb, established the Loeb Prize in 1995 at the Saint Louis Science Center.

The Loeb Prize, endowed in 2002 by a generous gift from the Loeb family, honors teachers who significantly enhance their students’ performances in science and mathematics. The late Mr. Loeb worked for the May Department Stores Company, retiring as chairman of the board. He was chairman of the Saint Louis Science Center’s Board of Commissioners and a member of the Saint Louis Science Center’s Board of Trustees. Carol Loeb, who serves on the Saint Louis Science Center’s Board of Trustees, presided over today’s awards ceremony along with Bert Vescolani, Saint Louis Science Center President and CEO.

“This is the 23rd year of our partnership with the Loeb Family in recognizing and rewarding outstanding teachers dedicated to STEM education,” said Vescolani. “The Loeb Prize is one of the many ways we honor teachers who share the mission of the Saint Louis Science Center – to ignite and sustain a lifelong interest in science and technology.”

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About the Loeb Prize

The Loeb Prize, established in 1995 and endowed in 2002 by a gift from Carol B. and Jerome T. Loeb, honors effective teaching as a central component of quality education. It is one way in which the Loeb family and the Saint Louis Science Center demonstrate their commitment to teaching professionals and elevate public appreciation for teachers’ efforts. The late Jerome Loeb, former chairman of the board of the May Department Stores Company, was a member of the Saint Louis Science Center’s Board of Trustees and chaired its Board of Commissioners. Carol Loeb is a math teacher and currently serves on the Saint Louis Science Center’s Board of Trustees.

Saint Louis Science Center

The mission of the Saint Louis Science Center is to ignite and sustain lifelong science and technology learning. Named a Smithsonian Institution Affiliate in 2016, the Saint Louis Science Center features more than 700 interactive exhibits, as well as a five-story OMNIMAX® Theater, Boeing Hall and the James S. McDonnell Planetarium. For more information about the Saint Louis Science Center, please visit slsc.org.

Trademarks

Thank you for your interest in the Saint Louis Science Center. We ask that you include the full names of our institution: Saint Louis Science Center, OMNIMAX® Theater, Boeing Hall and James S. McDonnell Planetarium when writing your story.