

LOCAL NEWS

Winners named in Inland Empire's Junior Upcoming Medical Professionals competition

By **STAFF REPORT** | |

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This spring, more than 70 middle school students in the Inland Empire have spent some of their time at home submitting answers to a variety of health-care questions. This was part of the final competition capping off their participation in the Junior Upcoming Medical Professionals (JUMP) program.

JUMP was created for seventh- and eighth-graders interested in developing skills to pursue health-care careers such as medical terminology, medical ethics, nutrition and meal planning and medical photography and drawing. The program began four years ago in response to a continuing shortage of health-care professionals in Riverside and San Bernardino counties and is offered through the Inland Health Professions Coalition at Reach Out, a nonprofit agency in the Inland Empire.

“Normally we would hold the final showdown in a head-to-head competition for 250 students in a large auditorium with friends and family watching and cheering as the students answer judges’ questions,” Diana Fox, executive director of Reach Out, said in a news release. “But this year, due to the safe-at-home orders, we improvised and held the competition virtually so the students could still showcase their knowledge of health care.”

The judging panel, made up of physicians, scientists and science teachers, announced the first- through fifth-place winners in each category the week of May 11.

Following are the first-place winners.



Mihir Mandapaka a student at Canyon Hills Junior High School in Chino Hills, is the winner in the Disease Dilemma and Medical Terminology categories.

Lana Wong of Ruth Musser Middle School in Rancho Cucamonga won in the Medical Measurements, Nutrition and Medical Photography categories.

Lyna Huynh of Etiwanda Intermediate School in Rancho Cucamonga won the JUMP Bowl, a category that combines questions from anatomy, diseases and biomedical sciences.

Others are Natalia Roman, River Heights Intermediate School in Eastvale, Medical Art/Drawing; Sienna Gango, Ruth Musser Middle School in Ranch Cucamonga, Healthcare Presentations; Reagan Bernal, River Heights Intermediate School in Eastvale, Public Service Announcement Infographic; Fritzi Avila, Upland Junior High School, Medical Ethics category.

Winners receive an electronic gift card, and students from River Heights Intermediate School, who won the school competition for fielding the most winners in first through fifth place, received a gift basket with various health-care products to share among the winning students.

Other schools participating in the JUMP program are Cucamonga Middle School in Rancho Cucamonga, Robert O. Townsend Junior High School in Chino Hills, Auburndale Intermediate School in Corona, Ramirez Intermediate School in Eastvale and Sunnymead and Landmark middle schools in Moreno Valley.

For information on JUMP and other Reach Out programs, go to we-reachout.org and inlandcoalition.org/2020jumpcelebration.

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