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LOCAL

### NCC plays host to high school science contest

BY A.J. O'CONNELL  
Hour Staff Writer

**NORWALK** — It wasn't Dr. Frankenstein's lab, but a high school student named Igor walked away with first prize at Wednesday's Norwalk Community College Science Fair.

Igor Zelenberg, a Stamford High School student, won a \$1,000 cash scholarship for his science project, which measured the amount of the chemical metallothionein produced in fish livers.

Samantha Lin, a student at Bethel High School, won second prize and \$500 for a project that looked at the effect of soda on the growth of bacteria. In third place was Constantine Rago of Bethel High School, who took home \$250 for his research on peppers in the "Jalapeno Project."

Fifty-six high school science projects were on display on the college's West Campus as a part of the college fifth annual Academic Festival.

"We do the Academic Festival every year, but this is a special year, its our fortieth anniversary," said chemistry professor John Dolhun, who organized the science fair and also served as a judge.

Dolhun decided to organize a high school science fair to celebrate the community college's ties to local high schools.

"Basically the high school students are our closest neighbors, and we depend on them."



Jen Swartzchild of Bethel High School explains her science project to Dr. Marvin Goldstein. Hour photo/ERIK TRAUTMANN

Bethel and Ridgefield were among those who participated in the fair.

Students, judged on their work by a panel of 15 judges, said that they enjoyed the opportunity to show off projects that had consumed so much of their time and energy.

"This is a thing I can be proud of," said Laura Hilbert of Bethel High School, who received an honorable mention

required to submit one science project a year to a program called Science Horizons and began designing the project last year and actually began work in January.

Rachel Levine, of Bethel High School, whose project dealt with the effects of power lines on cell growth, said she enjoys presenting her work to the judges.

"You don't really need to explain your project to them

judges will know."

Other students who were recognized by the judges and who received honorable mention were Emma Fyffe, Meghan Holloper, Dan Liepins, Jen Swartzchild and Steven Wax of Bethel High School, Matt Wisnieff of Ridgefield High School, Sanjeev Goluguri of Stamford High School, and Ankur Ahuja, Scott Larkin, Joshua Lotstein of Westhill High School.