



1st Place – Mrs. Jillian Bermudez - Vineyard STEM

I am a fourth grade teacher at a S.T.E.M. school in Ontario, CA. I have attended the STEP conference with my students for the last two years and it is easily one of our favorite field trips. The STEP conference allows the students access and opportunities that a lot of them would not otherwise receive. They love the science show and I have to admit I couldn't wait to go home and show my family some of the cool things I saw there. The kids also enjoy the exhibit halls. They get to have experiences with robots and green screens. They get hands on opportunities to create paper rockets and take thermal pictures of their faces. They are also introduced to different educational opportunities and career paths they can take. STEP reinforces a post high school and college bound mind set so that the students realize the importance of education beyond high school. As a teacher it is a wonderful opportunity to get my students excited about science, technology, engineering and math and see how they are applied in the real world.



2nd Place - Karen Clarke, Manuel L. Real

I look forward to taking my students to the STEP Conference each year! The main speaker is always educationally entertaining for the students. The exhibits capture their attention and imagination. While I provide opportunities within the classroom, the conference is an outstanding springboard for many of the students to delve into areas of STEM that are only briefly covered within our curriculum. It opens the door of priceless possibilities.



3rd Place – Mrs. Bessie Moreno, Hearts After-School Coordinator, Adams Elementary

I really appreciate everything the STEP conference has to offer my students. Because we are a school in a high poverty area, after-school activities available are mostly sports, but these don't work for kids who are less capable physically or are interested in other things. At the classroom level, and even more so at home, science is expensive, so most of my students don't have as much access as we as teachers would wish for. Your conference gave them a window into that world, and an affirmation that there are adults out there who think like them. On behalf of all my students, but especially my geeky little ones, I thank you.