

2021 High School Big Data Day Winner Announcement

Using the Power of Open Data to Learn: Paving the Path to True Equality and Equal Access in Education
Under the patronage of Canadian Commission for UNESCO



On February 28th 2021, we hosted the first fully-remote High School Big Data Day, the culminating finale event for the High School Big Data Challenge. This year's theme of *Equity in Education* had students trying to solve different aspects leading to inequality and inequity in education, using the power of Data Science. The top 15 competitors from across Canada defended their work, and were able to showcase themselves on a national level. The winning teams won cash prizes, the opportunity to publish their manuscripts in the STEM Fellowship Journal, and a Research Experience Opportunity with STEM Fellowship.

On top of showcasing their work, the students attended a keynote presentation by Christal Lin, a senior data scientist at RBC, regarding the importance of Data Science and how to successfully enter the field. The event also featured a Roundtable Discussion featuring Dr. Bonnie Schmidt (President & Founder – Let's Talk Science), Isabelle LeVert-Chiasson (Program Officer, Education | National ASPnet Coordinator – CC UNESCO), Dr. Suze Kundu (Head of Public Engagement – Digital Science), and Dr. Sacha Noukhovitch (President & Founder – STEM Fellowship). In the discussion, these four experts explored their views on current issues, and the stark potential of Data Science in education.

We invite you to follow STEM Fellowship on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#) to stay up-to-date on all our programs, and to visit our website (<https://stemfellowship.org/>) for more information on all our programs.

Below are the winners of the competition, links to their projects, and their prize designations.

Anish R. Verma

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anish R. Verma', written over a circular stamp or seal.

Chief Data Officer
STEM Fellowship

CCUNESCO Scholarly Communication Awards

In memoriam of Mohammad and Zeynab Asadi-Lari

1st Prize: \$1500 + Publication:

An Investigation Into the Socioeconomic Factors Correlated to PISA Reading Scores
Orchee Haque, Sophie Hoyer, Stephanie Huynh, Sraddha Uppili

[Manuscript](#)

[Video](#)

2nd Prize: \$600:

Examining the Effects of Government Funding and Staff Compensation on Public
School Completion Rates

Allan Cao, Ziyang Li, Sarah Zuo

[Manuscript](#)

[Video](#)

3rd Prize: \$400:

A Study of How Money Invested in Secondary Students' Education Impacts the Quality
of Education in the Math and Science Fields

Raymond Ma, Rachel Dietrich, Ruby Miller, and Tenzin Dhonyoe

[Manuscript](#)

[Video](#)

Let's Talk Science Analytics Talent Awards

1st Prize: \$1500 + Publication:

Inequity in Education: the Correlation Between Neighbourhood and School Performance
in Ontario

Shuyu van Kerkwijk, Florence Ho, Hibah Hussain, Grace Ko

[Manuscript](#)

[Video](#)

2nd Prize: \$600:

Application of Multivariate Analysis in Identifying Factors Influencing Education Equity

Andrew Mao, Binder Nie, Nicholas Dong

[Manuscript](#)

[Video](#)

3rd Prize: \$400:

Using Feature Importance Methods to Identify Primary Factors Contributing to
Education Index

Samuel Lu, Evan Skrukwa, and Shahryar Wasif

[Manuscript](#)

[Video](#)

Kimberly Foundation Prize for Transformative Ideas

In memoriam of Hugh and Pat Morris

1st Prize: \$1500 + Publication:

The Role of Government Expenditure in Equitable Education

Jatin Mehta, Philip D'Costa, and Keval Patel

[Manuscript](#)

[Video](#)

2nd Prize: \$600:

A Correlative Analysis of Educator Identified Factors and Global Student Assessment Scores

Natalie Jarycki

[Manuscript](#)

[Video](#)

3rd Prize: \$400:

The Impact of the Student Nutrition Program on Academic Achievement in Ontario

Cristian Bogdan, Harshith Duba, Nathan Pfeffer, and Nada Salem

[Manuscript](#)

[Video](#)

Digital Science Excellence In Analytics Award

\$1000:

Educational Inequality Between Urban and Rural Areas

Joshua Lakdawala and Yash Jagirdar

[Manuscript](#)

[Video](#)

RBC Arnold Chan Memorial Award for Student Innovation

\$1000:

The Correlation Between Economic Status and Quality of Education

Isaac Bahler, Samantha Chong, Nanya Anyaduba, and Nier Kamel

[Manuscript](#)

[Video](#)

STEM Fellowship Research Experience Opportunity

12 Week Research Experience:

Inequity in Education: the Correlation Between Neighbourhood and School Performance in Ontario

Shuyu van Kerkwijk, Florence Ho, Hibah Hussain, Grace Ko

[Manuscript](#)

[Video](#)