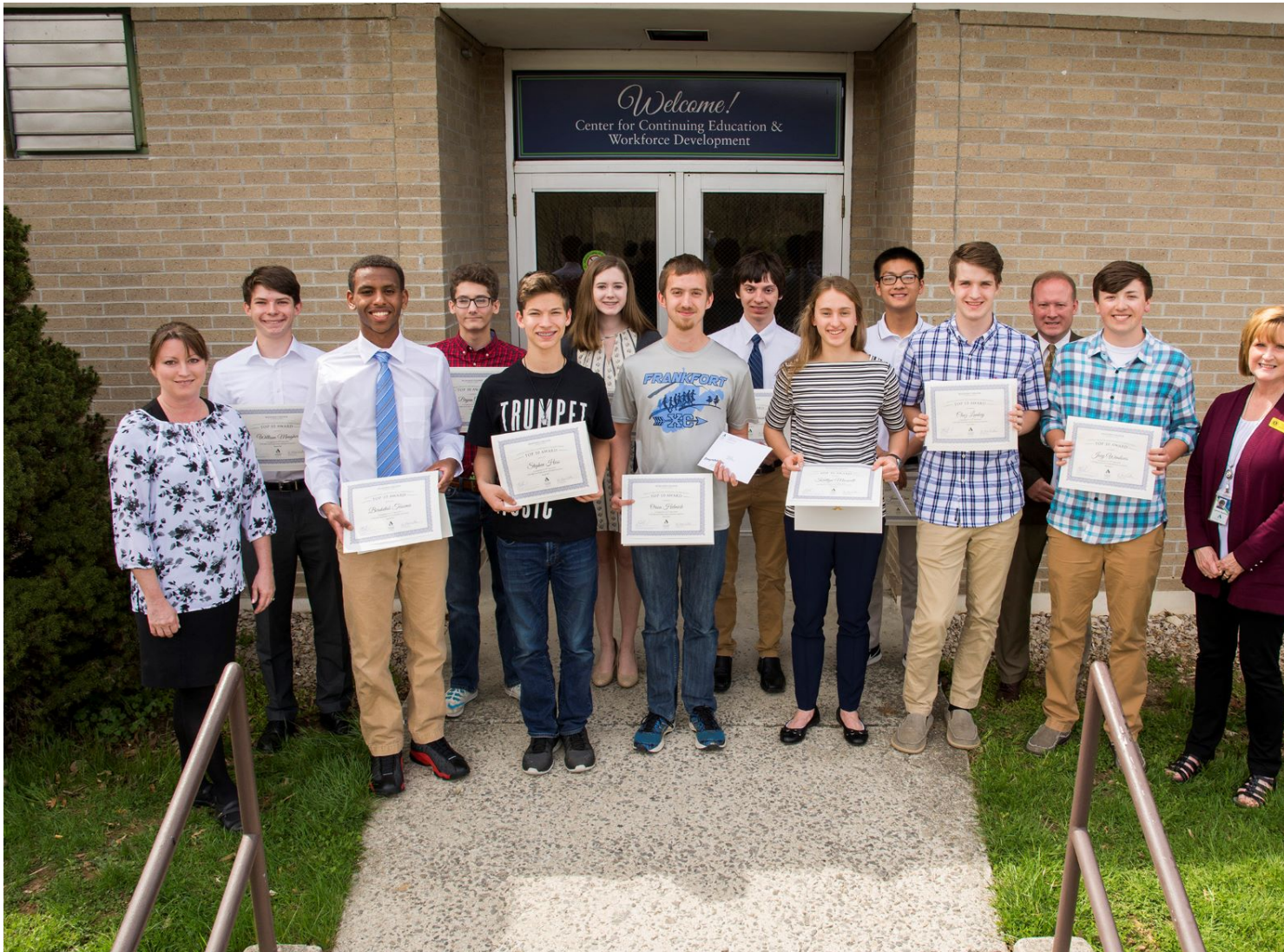


ACM Hosts Tri-State Mathematics Scholarship Contest with LaVale Lions

Written by Kristin Kehrwald

Friday, 19 April 2019 09:19 - Last Updated Friday, 19 April 2019 09:23

Mountain Ridge High School Junior Bereketab Tessema may not have crossed a finish line but he did take home an award.



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A member of Mountain Ridge's National Honor Society and track and field team, Tessema received first place honors at the 33rd annual Tri-State Mathematics Scholarship Contest awards ceremony at the Allegany College of Maryland on April 10, 2019. Thanks to the generosity of the LaVale Lions, he received a scholarship to ACM to use towards early college courses during his senior year of high school, summer courses or fall/summer courses following his high school graduation.

The college-sponsored Tri-State Mathematics Scholarship Contest competition encourages high school juniors to test their math knowledge and earn ACM scholarships. This year's event drew 120 contestants from ten high schools, a 50 percent increase in number of participants from the past year.

The top 10 scholarship winners were determined by their scores on one-hour algebra, geometry and problem-solving test which was administered during a field trip to the campus in late-March. In many instances, students "tied" by having the same score, according to the test developers and scorers—all faculty from ACM's Mathematics Division.

The top three scholarship awardees included:

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Tessema, Mountain Ridge High School, first place/\$1,000 scholarship;

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Stephen Hess, Fort Hill High School, second place/ \$500 scholarship; and

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Orion Helmick, Frankford High School, third place, \$300 scholarship.

The remaining awardees each received a \$250 scholarship and included:

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Chaz Lankey, Bedford High School, and Kaitlyn Maxwell, Everett Area High School, tied;

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Bryan Gough, Frankford High School, William Meagher, Southern Garrett High school, and Joey Windows, Bedford High School, tied;

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Katherine Catulle, Southern Garrett High School; and

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Jason Chen, Mountain Ridge High School, and Noah Peterson, Allegany High School, tied.

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Mountain Ridge juniors Tessema, Chen and Hana Chitsaz were the top ranked team. Gouch, Helmick, Michah Lewis, and Kate Linthicum from Frankfort took second place. The third team was comprised of Brandon Fischer, Lankey, and Windows from Bedford High School.

PHOTO CAPTION: L-R: Dr. Stacey Boggs from ACM, William Meagher of Southern Garrett High School, Bereketab Tessema of Mountain Ridge High School, Bryan Gough of Frankfort High School, Stephen Hess of Fort Hill High School, Katherine Catulle of Southern Garrett High School, Orion Helmick of Frankfort High School, Noah Peterson of Allegany High School, Kaitlyn Maxwell of Everett Area High School, Chaz Lankey from Bedford High School, David Jones from ACM, Joey Windows from Bedford High School, and Cynthia Zumbrun from LaVale Lions.

Speakers at the ceremony included Lions Club Member Cindy Zumbrun, ACM Foundation Director and Advancement and Community Relations Vice President David Jones. ACM President Dr. Cynthia Bambara, ACM Student/Math Lab Tutor Hope DeVore Spencer, Contest Chair/ACM Mathematics Professor Dr. Stacey Boggs, ACM Professor/Mathematic Division Director Dr. Mark Shore and ACM Assistant Professor of Mathematics Clorinda Calhoun.

Spencer thanked the students “for having a love of math” and spoke about opportunities for helping others find the joy in its study. Jones paid homage to the event’s unsung heroes: the parents, teachers and principals who encourage students to achieve.

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Some scholarships recipients spoke about possible STEM careers after high school. Tessema hopes to attend Cornell University to study engineering. (His dad, a professor of engineering at Frostburg State University, and his mother, a nurse, could not be prouder.) Maxwell mentioned her plans to pursue mechanical engineering after graduation, inspired in part by her older sibling who is majoring in engineering and music.

For students like Tessema and Maxwell, pursuing careers in STEM occupations holds great promise. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistic's 2017 *Spotlight on Statistics STEM Occupations: Past, Present, and Future* publication, "the STEM group that is projected to grow fastest from 2014 to 2024 is the mathematical science occupations group at 28.2 percent, compared with the average projected growth for all occupations of 6.5 percent."