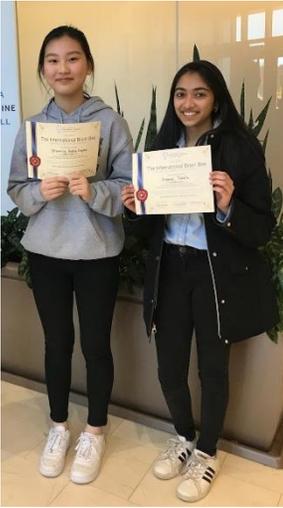


Superintendent's Highlight **February 15, 2019** **Long Island Brain Bee!!!**



Once again, a POBJFK Social Science Research student has been awarded head of the hive following a third consecutive win at the annual Long Island Brain Bee. Last Saturday, POB junior Breanna Huang-Ouyang won first place at this prestigious neuroscience event. Additionally, POB classmate Kreena Totala was the second-place winner. This year's competitor pool included 51 students representing 25 high schools across Long Island.

The goal of the regional high school science competition is to test students' knowledge of the brain and nervous system. This intellectually rigorous event consisted of three rounds: a written neuroscience exam on brain facts; a laboratory demonstration on normal and pathological human brains and spinal cord specimens; and a test to identify and explain the anatomical structures and functions of various brain specimens.

Breanna follows the wins of Jessica Goldstein (2018) and Safia Mirza (2017), and will now have the honor of representing the Long Island Region at the 2019 U.S. Brain Bee Championship later this year. "Many students who took part in our earlier competitions are now in college and majoring in neuroscience; it's gratifying," said Zeinab Nassrallah, PhD, Assistant Professor of Science Education at Zucker School of Medicine and Brain Bee co-coordinator. Her words reflect the pathway of POB alumnus Safia Mirza, a current neuroscience & philosophy major at Boston University, and Jessica Goldstein who plans on majoring in biomedical engineering next year. Kreena attests to the power of the event in curating neuroscientific interest, as she has been doing throughout high school, she always centered her science studies around the biochemical world.

This competition has created a community of students dedicated to exploring neuroscience and supporting each other in their academic pursuits. To spotlight the continued achievements of POB students at the Long Island Brain Bee, the School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell recently published an article recapping the previous successes of POB students at the Long Island Brain Bee and highlighted both Jessica and Safia on all their social media pages.

It is worth noting that the accomplishment of these four students was only possible with the dedication of our Social Science Research Coordinator, Mr. Raymond Tesar. He consistently encourages his students to go beyond classroom walls in order to immerse themselves in their passions, whether it be conducting research at neuroscience institutions or competing at the Brain Bee.

Breanna and Kreena are looking forward to joining both Safia and Jessica in helping the next generation of budding POB neuroscientists prepare for the 2020 event! We wish Breanna the best of luck at the National Brain Bee!

