

NOTEBOOK

# Students create virtual businesses

**T**wenty-eight simulated businesses created by area high schoolers achieved gold status in various categories of Virtual Enterprises International's Long Island Regional Conference and Exhibition.

The event, held this month at LIU Post, included nearly 2,000 students from more than 80 high schools showcasing more than 100 fictional companies. Categories ranged from best commercial to best website.

Participants also made booths to display products and services and performed mock sales transactions using point-of-sale systems on mobile devices.

"These students have the opportunity through events like this to develop career readiness skills that are going to set them apart when they move from high school into college and ultimately their careers," Virtual Enterprises International president Nick Chapman said.

Gold-status businesses and their high schools were: "Waves Works," Babylon; "SuppLI," Baldwin; "MiSport," Bethpage; "STEALTH," Bethpage; "Plenty Package," H. Frank Carey; "A Lil Twist," Carle Place; "Outlast Outerwear," Carle Place; "Infinity Bars," Herricks; "The Party Project," Herricks; "Comforting Canines," George W. Hewlett; "Entertainment Express," Islip; "Worldwide Entertainment Corporation," Islip; "Delta Dorms," Jericho; "Caffeine Dreamin'," Lindenhurst; "Glow Games," Mattituck; "TruView VR," Wellington C. Mepham; "Amplify Audio," Miller Place; "Snap Shack," Miller Place; "Sol Energy," Mount Sinai; "T. Merchants," New Hyde Park; "Brama Chocolates," Oceanside; "Nova," Patchogue-Medford; "Home Pros," Plainview-Old Bethpage JFK; "TRUBLU Technologies," Smithtown West; "Tota Vita," Syosset; "At Your Service," West Hempstead; "A Helping Hand," West Hempstead; and "Sway," Westhampton Beach.

**WEST BABYLON**

**Hall of Fame**

The West Babylon school district recently held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to unveil a new Hall of Fame wall in the high school's lobby in partnership with the West Babylon Alumni Foundation.

The foundation has inducted 45 individuals since its first induction dinner in 2009. Past inductees have included the late Sen. Owen H. Johnson and Legis. Thomas Cilmi (R-Bay Shore).

**COUNTYWIDE**

**Clothing drives**

Many area schools are spreading warmth to those in need through winter clothing drives.

In Deer Park, the high school's Community Service Club and Red Cross Club donated more than 100 coats to the Long



Nearly 2,000 students competed earlier this month during Virtual Enterprises International's Long Island Regional Conference and Exhibition at LIU Post.

ROSSANA WEITEKAMP

Island Coalition for the Homeless. The coats will be provided to homeless men, women, children and veterans.

In West Islip, third-graders in Maria Lucie and Alissa Rush's classes at Bayview Elementary School collected and sorted more than 100 coats for CSJ Learning Connection for Adult Education in Brentwood.

In Lake Ronkonkoma, second-graders at Hiawatha Elementary School have been collecting items, including new and gently used coats, hats and scarves that will be given to an area shelter for distribution.

**ISLANDWIDE**

**Calendar contest**

Twelve Long Island students were winners in a Peace Poster Art Contest coordinated by the Shanti Fund, a Medford-based organization committed to enlightenment and peace through educa-

tion. For winning, their artwork appears in the organization's 2019 calendar and they received prize money ranging from \$101 to \$1,201 based on their grade level.

Winners were: Heidi Almskog, James Wilson Young Middle School in Bayport; Kraig Benson, William Floyd Elementary School in Shirley; Rosita Boherquez, MacArthur High School in Levittown; Joyce Chen, Paul D. Schreiber High School in Port Washington; Keren Dial, Valley Stream South High School; Lily Gomez, William Paca Middle School in Mastic Beach; Hailey Herfel, Fort Salonga Elementary School; Theresa Kelly, Park View Elementary School in Kings Park; Sania Parikh, Howard B. Mattlin Middle School in Plainview; Laiyla Salome-Diaz, New Visions School in Freeport; Lilian Sanchez-Diaz, Greenport Elementary School; and Nethmi Withanage, Smithtown High School East. — MICHAEL R. EBERT

**WAY TO GO!**

**Rohan Akmal**

## Student wins poster contest on dangers of nicotine

**A** Longwood middle school student's poster on the dangers of liquid nicotine has won the top spot in a county-wide contest.

Rohan Akmal, a sixth-grader at the Middle Island school, won first place in the contest, which asked elementary schoolers to create a public service announcement poster about the dangers and adverse effects of liquid nicotine.

Rohan's poster, created using markers, featured two scenes: a community with nicotine and a community without nicotine. The nicotine-free community consisted of more vibrant colors and depicted healthier people having more fun.



LONGWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT

For winning, his illustration will appear on the cover of the Suffolk County Department of Health Services' 2019 brochure. He also received a proclamation from Legis. Sarah Anker (D-Mount Sinai).

"I was very surprised," said Rohan, 11, noting he participated as part of an extra-credit assignment for his health class. "It wasn't in my mind that I would actually win."

The winning illustration was selected by Suffolk County Legislature presiding officer DuWayne Gregory (D-Copague) after each legislator had selected a finalist from their district.

"I congratulate Rohan on a job well done and thank him for teaching his peers the dangers of nicotine," Anker said.

Rohan is also a member of his school's Junior Robotics Club and is a Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports ambassador at his school. — MICHAEL R. EBERT

**NOMINATE A STUDENT**

for Way to Go! Send details and photograph to Michael Ebert, Newsday, 235 Pinelawn Rd., Melville, NY 11747 or email michael.ebert@newsday.com (emailed photos should be high-resolution). Photos cannot be returned and may be used in other publications affiliated with Newsday.



THREE VILLAGE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

**DRIVE THROUGH**

Minnesauke Elementary School students in East Setauket recently learned rules of the road as they rolled through a mock town set up in the gymnasium as part of the school's Safety Town program.