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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EDITOR'S NOTE: Members of the media may contact Jeannette Rea-Keywood of the Rutgers 4-H Youth Development Program by phone at 609-898-0928, ext. 11 or by email at reakeyword@njaes.rutgers.edu.

4-H MEMBERS CAPTURE TOP AWARDS AT STATE 4-H PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST

Twenty-three New Jersey 4-H members received Outstanding Presentation Awards at the State 4-H Public Presentations Contest held recently (June 11) at the Cook/Douglass Campus of Rutgers University in New Brunswick.

Over 150 4-H members from throughout the state took part in this event which offers qualified 4-H members an advanced Public Speaking experience. To qualify for this State 4-H Event, 4-H members must be in the 8th-13th grade and have received an excellent rating at their County 4-H Public Speaking Contest. Judging is done by educators, 4-H volunteers, faculty and staff.

The 2016 Outstanding 4-H Presentation Award winners included:

Declan Bacorn, Hunterdon County; Roshni Dhanasekar, Somerset County; Keira Ezzo, Middlesex County; Ben Fernandez, Somerset County; Kate Gavin, Middlesex County; Ashwin Gokhale, Middlesex County; Vedant Iyer, Middlesex County; Nirun Kumaresen, Camden County; Hannah McCray, Somerset County; Colleen McCord, Hunterdon County; Kate McHale, Somerset County; Ashley Murphy, Salem County; Melanie Quick, Somerset County; Rahul Ramanathan, Somerset County; Swara Ramaswamu, Somerset County; Marit Edwards-Ronning, Burlington County; Bridgett Sona, Somerset County; Marissa Stanko, Salem County; Isha Thapar, Middlesex County; Jillian Tozer, Cumberland County; Hannah Valdes, Monmouth County; Theresa Wilson, Sussex County; and Jessica Zhang, Morris County

“Public speaking is one of many life skills that 4-H members learn, develop and enhance during their involvement in 4-H club, county, state and national positive youth development experiences. 4-H Alumni site public speaking as the most valuable skill gained while in 4-H.” says Jeannette Rea Keywood, 4-H Agent, Department of 4-H Youth Development.

The 4-H Youth Development Program is part of Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station - Cooperative Extension, 4-H educational programs are offered to all youth, grades K-13, on an age-appropriate basis, without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disability, atypical hereditary cellular or blood trait, marital status, domestic partnership status, military service, veteran status, and any other category protected by law. For more information about the New Jersey 4-H Program visit the 4-H website at <http://nj4h.rutgers.edu/> contact the State 4-H office (848) 932-3700 or email nj4h@njaes.rutgers.edu.

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