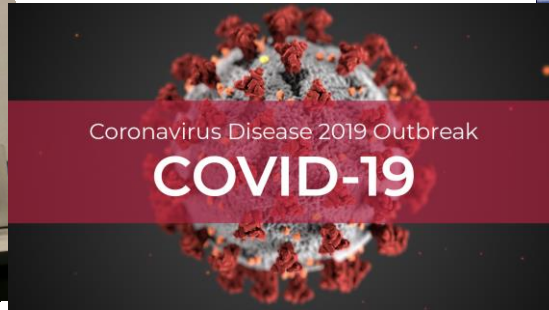


Synopsys Championship Becomes Virtual Science Fair



March 2020

What happened ?

With the outbreak of the SARS-CoV-2, the Santa Clara Valley Science and Engineering Fair Association Board of Directors met on March 4th, 2020 to discuss how to hold the Championship to minimize risk to the students and judges. The board wanted the students to be recognized for the hard work they had done on their incredible projects. Larke Reeber (SCVSEFA Director), Heidi Black (SCVSEFA President), and Kerry Veenstra (SCVSEFA Director & database/tech guru) presented a proposal that would take the fair 100% virtual. Some were skeptical it could be done in a week but they approved the proposal.

How did it all come together ?

Many people had a hand in making this happen. Two organizations were particularly critical to our success. A parent put us in contact with Beth Styles of Amazon Chime. She coordinated the creation of the 1000 no-host videoconferences needed for all of the judging and helped staff the call center. Sandi Yellenberg (SCVSEFA Director and Santa Clara County Office of Education employee) had the SCCOE set up a call center for us on judging day and the day before. Without the efforts of these two organizations, the virtual Championship would not have happened.

The list of other people who did critical work to make this all happen is very, very long. If you know them, please take a few minutes to thank them. After the board meeting, the only time we had more than four people meet for any activity was at the call center and we kept the number of people who helped there at the absolute minimum. Everything else was done remotely by board members, committee members and long time volunteers. By late Saturday night, the students had access to their folders to upload their project materials and by Wednesday evening, the judges could preview the project materials.

We hope the pandemic passes and the health care system has the capacity to handle all of the people who are expected to be very sick. Please do your part to slow this pandemic by practicing good hygiene and social distancing. Hopefully by next year the worst will be over and we can have a normal fair.

Special thanks to **amazon Chime** and the **Santa Clara County Office of Education** for making this year's fair possible.