About ProjectCSGIRLS

ProjectCSGIRLS (www.projectcsgirls.com), founded in 2013, is a national 501(c)(3) nonprofit working to close the tech gender gap through running a national computer science competition for middle school girls and workshops around the country. Our competition and workshops challenge girls to be makers and use tech to develop projects with social impact, empowering them to pursue technology and confidently step forward into a field as male-dominated as computer science, speaking to their desire to create social change, and providing them with a network of like-minded peers, mentors, and professionals to help support and grow their ideas. The ProjectCSGIRLS Competition for Middle School Girls challenges participants in 6th-8th grade to build something using computer science and technology that can help solve an imminent social problem under one of three themes - global health, a safer world, and intelligent technology. Judges select semifinalists, finalists, and national winners. All finalists are invited to DC for our national gala. ProjectCSGIRLS has reached over 1,800 middle school girls in over 35 states. The 2016 ProjectCSGIRLS Competition drew over 300 entrants (over 600 middle school girls) from 35 states.

ProjectCSGIRLS is backed and funded by the following corporate sponsors:

- **Gold Sponsors:** Symantec, Society for Science and the Public, GoDaddy
- **Silver Sponsors:** Mapbox, KPCB, Nest Labs, Northrop Grumman
- **Bronze Sponsor:** Sweetfrog Frozen Yogurt

2016 ProjectCSGIRLS National Gala

The national gala event, held in the Washington, D.C. metro area, is a celebration of girls in computing, a platform to honor our winners, and a forum to discuss the importance of women in technology. In this two-day event, winners interacted and networked with leaders in technology, took part in computer science workshops, listened to a panel of women in tech, and participated in a formal awards ceremony recognizing them. The event featured guest speakers and activities and serves to open the girls’ eyes to technology and computer science, showing them how exciting these fields are. The gala was held June 4th-5th at George Mason University in
Fairfax, VA and the Marriott Fairview Park in Falls Church, VA. Our featured keynote speakers included the following:

- **Ruthe Farmer** – Senior Policy Advisor for Tech Inclusion at the White House Office of Science & Technology Policy, Chief Growth and Strategy Officer at the National Center for Women and Information Technology
- **Dona Sarkar** – Global Lead of Windows Insider at Microsoft, Founder of Fibonacci Sequins and Prima Dona style, Author
- **Cori Lathan** – Founder and Chief Executive Officer of AnthroTronix, Chair of the World Economic Forum Global Agenda Council for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics
- **Ting Shih** – Founder and Chief Executive Officer of ClickMedix

For more information regarding the gala, please see: [http://www.projectcsgirls.com/gala.html](http://www.projectcsgirls.com/gala.html)

**2016 ProjectCSGIRLS National and Grand Prize Winners**

Congratulations to the winners of the 2016 ProjectCSGIRLS Competition for Middle School Girls! Their projects were chosen based on technical excellence, potential for social impact based on how well they addressed their chosen social issue, and creativity.

For a full list of 2016 National Finalists and Semifinalists, please see: [http://www.projectcsgirls.com/winners.html](http://www.projectcsgirls.com/winners.html)

1st Place Grand Prize – Emma Yang (New York, 7th grade, The Brearley School)
2nd Place Grand Prize – Baheen Huzan (New Jersey, 8th grade, Rosa International Middle School)
3rd Place Grand Prize – (TIE)
  - Sruthi Kurada and Kristen Su (Massachusetts, 6th grade, Advanced Math and Science Academy and Lloyd G. Blanchard Middle School)
  - Kavya Muralidhar (Texas, 8th grade, Rice Middle School)
4th Place – (TIE)
  - Sofiya Lysenko (Pennsylvania, 8th grade, Abington Junior High School)
  - Anusha Ghosh (California, 8th grade, Challenger Shawnee)
5th Place – Simrithaa Karunakaran (California, 8th grade, Quimby Oak Middle School)

Honorable Mentions:
- Pooja Kannappan (Michigan, 6th grade, West Hills Middle School)
- Pajaka Lakshmin, Aiko Lozar (California, 7th grade, Aviara Oaks Middle School)
- Christine Emanuellli, Erin Hines, Clara Mendoza (New Jersey, 7th grade, Mount Hebron Middle School)
- Hari Bhimraju (California, 7th grade, Kennedy Middle School)
- Sara Shankar (Texas, 8th grade, A&M Consolidated Middle School)
- Shishira Somashekar (North Carolina, 6th grade, Triangle Math and Science Academy)


High resolution photos available at [www.projectcsgirls.com](http://www.projectcsgirls.com)

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