



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Local High School Student Finalist for Statewide Science Award**

*-- Student one of three finalists for CAPS' 'Outstanding Young Scientist' Award --*

**SACRAMENTO, Calif.** – A Davis Senior High School (Davis) 12<sup>th</sup> grade student has been chosen as one of three finalists for the prestigious Outstanding Young Scientist Award presented by the California Association of Professional Scientists (CAPS). The winner will be announced at a luncheon ceremony at the Sacramento Zoo's Kampala Center from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Tuesday, September 22.

Madeline Sides, 16, was selected for her project titled "The Effect of Ocean Acidification on the Coccolithophore Species" which examined whether changes in the air and seawater have an impact on plankton, a key component in the ocean's ecosystem. Sides found that increased carbon dioxide levels severely effects certain plankton populations. The decrease of plankton would have a chain-reaction effect on other marine life.

The other two finalists are Sheena Song, a senior at Palos Verdes Peninsula High School in Rolling Hills Estates and Marci Rosenberg, a junior at Torrey Pines High School in San Diego.

This year's finalists represent remarkable talent in our state and this awards luncheon recognizes their accomplishments. The winner will receive a \$1,000 scholarship award and the two runner-ups each receive a \$500 scholarship award.

CAPS sponsors this statewide program to recognize the top Outstanding Young Scientists among middle and high school students in California. A CAPS panel of experts selected the three finalists from thousands of students competing at 15 Science and Engineering Fairs throughout the state.

### **About CAPS**

*CAPS represents nearly 3,000 state employed scientists working in over 30 state departments in 230 scientific classifications. CAPS members protect the public from life threatening diseases, safe guard our wildlife and abundant natural and cultural resources, and protect our air and water from toxic waste and pollution.*

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