I have participated in the Science Fair from my fourth grade and learned something every year. This year is, however very different from my previous years. My experience this year was both amazing and disappointing. I learned a lot at the regional fair, but I was also somewhat disappointed that it was virtual. I was happy to be awarded the opportunity to represent SLVRSF at the International Science and Engineering Fair.

My family and I went out and celebrated after the online awards ceremony.

During the State Fair, the interview process was an interesting experience. At the State Science Fair, the science presentations happened on zoom which wasn’t as much fun as in-person. I was interviewed by NREL Scientists and professors from CU Boulder. Some of their questions made me think about the larger picture in the renewable energy area.

At the International science fair, I liked it a lot more because it was a week-long event full of scientific presentations and an excellent online game that let me explore the main campus virtually.

I was a little concerned in the beginning about the fair due to the pandemic situation. I was disappointed that all the fairs were virtual. I missed the interaction of students and judges and all the fun events at State and International fairs. Kudos to the board and the team who worked and organized flawlessly our regional fair. It gave me the confidence to face state and international fair judges.

Thank you for the opportunity to represent SLVRSF at the International Science and Engineering Fair.

Sincerely

**Chinmay N. Jayanty**

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 Throughout the uncertain times of COVID-19, my science fair experience was the best one yet for my 2020-2021 junior year project. I put in the most work I had ever done for a science fair project, and it paid off. I ended up winning best of fair at regionals, then moving on to state, and ISEF. I ended the fair year by getting 4th place at internationals. At regional, state, and international levels, each of the fairs were interactive, accepting, and a fun experience. Even though we couldn't be in person, science fair was still incredible and I loved it either way. I appreciate all of those who helped to make these opportunities possible. It means so much to me and all of the other science-loving students.

Sincerely,

**Camille Rawinski** **– Monte Vista High School**

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   Science fair was a little different last year because of COVID we weren't able to present in person which initially was kind of disappointing.  However, I was able to learn how to present my project in a different way so I got a lot of experience with technology.  My project was so much fun!  I learned how to do arduino coding and applied that to a 3D model that I designed and printed at the high school.  Since my project was engineering, I was able to problem solve in a lot of different ways and learned a lot from the things that didn't work like I'd expected.  It was exciting to share everything I learned with the judges and it felt good to see my hard work pay off during the awards.  My chin hit the floor when I was chosen for the International observer award!  I never thought a 6th grader could get something like that so it felt really good.  It was a very motivating experience and I am ready to continue my project this year!

**Jakoby Ross – Monte Vista Middle School**