



**For Immediate Release**

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## Media Release

### **Academic Magnet Science Club Members Score Well at State Competition**

**Academic Magnet High  
School**

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**North Charleston, SC** — Ishraq Haque's (pronounced ish-RACK HOCK) mission of providing clean water for his parents' hometown in Bangladesh is taking him to New Mexico. The sophomore at Academic Magnet High School (AMHS) won first place at the South Carolina Department of Defense Junior Science and Humanities Symposium in Columbia last month; he earned a \$2,000 scholarship and a trip to Albuquerque, NM for the National Junior Science and Humanities Symposium in late April.

Haque is part of the AMHS Science Club, which had a successful showing at the event at the University of South Carolina on January 18, 2019. Sophomore Disha Qanungo earned finalist status with her presentation in the Health and Medicine category; her project was on organic acne medication. Senior Greg Znoyko came in second in Computer Science thanks to a project highlighting software he's developed (and is being used at the Medical University of South Carolina).

Haque's Environmental Science presentation stole the show. His project, titled *A Novel Approach to Removing Arsenic from Drinking Water for Low-Income Populations in Rural Villages*, highlighted a household water purification system he developed; it is currently being used in several homes in a town in Bangladesh.

"I have seen the dangerous effects of arsenicosis," Haque said. "It was nice to bring some awareness by participating in the state competition and now I will be able to showcase my work at the national level."

The Junior Science and Humanities Symposium (JSHS) provides students with the opportunity to present research projects in STEM-related fields (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) in front of a panel of judges. The scholars also submit a paper detailing their findings before the competition; the top-21 finishers overall in the state competition are recognized as finalists.

Katy Metzner-Roop, who teaches biology and marine biology at Academic Magnet (and serves as a sponsor for the AMHS Science Club), will accompany Haque to the 57<sup>th</sup> National JSHS this spring.

"I'm lucky that I get to teach students like Ishraq, and all the other competitors," added Roop. "Their research is so impressive and ground-breaking.

They are our future leaders and I truly believe that I learn as much from them as they do from me.”

Haque will be one of 230 students from around the world competing for additional scholarship money at the event April 24-27, 2019 in New Mexico.

For more information about Ishraq Haque’s accomplishment, his upcoming trip to New Mexico, or the AMHS Science Club, please contact Katy Metzner-Roop at [katherinelee\\_roop@charleston.k12.sc.us](mailto:katherinelee_roop@charleston.k12.sc.us).

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#### **About the Charleston County School District**

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is the second largest school system in South Carolina representing a unique blend of urban, suburban, and rural schools that span 1,000 square miles along the coast. CCSD serves more than 50,000 students in 86 schools and specialized programs. With approximately 6,100 employees district-wide, CCSD is the fourth largest employer in the region.

CCSD offers a diverse, expanding portfolio of options and specialized programs, delivered through neighborhood, charter, magnet, IB (international baccalaureate), and Montessori schools, and is divided into three Learning Communities. Options include specialized programs in science, engineering and mathematics; liberal arts; music and other creative and performing arts; career and technical preparation programs; and military and other public service enterprises.