

# *Hicksville HS wins Medical Marvels competition*

The Feinstein Institute for Medical Research in Manhasset and Northwell Health's Center for Workforce Readiness has named Hicksville High School the winner of its seventh annual Medical Marvels Competition. The program was developed to encourage Long Island high school students in ninth and tenth grades to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and math.

This year's Medical Marvels competition posed a hypothetical challenge to all contestants: "You are the principal of a high school in New York State and your school district's superintendent is extremely worried about vaping at the high school. The superintendent tasks you with developing and implementing a solution to end this crisis." This was the problem Dr. Stephanie Piscitelli's Introduction to Social Science Research students at Hicksville High School were asked to solve. This included examining the risks of exposure to nicotine and toxic substances, dependence and abuse, and secondhand exposure associated with e-cigarettes. The team then had to develop an innovative solution, a plan for enhancing awareness and a

measure for their work.

Students Sarah Chavez, Roxy Dias, Maeryam Nasari, Bisma Omer and Kaitlyn Verdugo examined this real-world scenario and developed the winning solution to end the problem and improve the health and safety of the student population. "We are extremely proud of the hard work and creativity of our young researchers in delivering an award-winning solution to this very real problem. They represent the next generation of visionaries in science and health research," said Social Studies and Home and Careers Supervisor Dr. Rose Borda.

Thirty-eight teams' submitted proposals in the competition. Each underwent an evaluation and judging process conducted by a panel of scientists, clinicians and health care administrators using the National Institutes of Health grant scoring criteria. Teams presented their completed proposals at the Medical Marvels competition on March 8 at the Feinstein Institute for Medical Research. Along with first-place honors, the Hicksville students won an award of \$1,800.





*Hicksville High School principal Ray Williams congratulated Dr. Stephanie Piscitelli and her social science students, who teamed up to win this year's Medical Marvels competition, sponsored by the Feinstein Institute for Medical Research and Northwell Health's Center for Workforce Readiness.* Photo courtesy of the Hicksville School District