
Farmingdale
State College
State University of New York
Friday, April 3rd, 2026
4th Annual Symposium
FARMINGDALE STATE COLLEGE
IGNITE
SYMPOSIUM

4th Annual

IGNITE Symposium

Friday, April 3rd, 2026

PROGRAM AGENDA

Check-In and Light Refreshment

9:30am—Campus Center Ballroom Atrium

Welcome Address & Keynote Address

Dr. Michael A. Marino, Associate Professor of Chemistry with the Biology, Chemistry, and Environmental Science Department at Molloy University

10:00am—Campus Ballroom A

Poster Session I

10:30am—Campus Center Ballroom B & C

Spark Speaker Session

11:30am—Campus Center Ballroom A

Lunch (provided by Aramark)

12:00pm—Student Lounge

Poster Session II

1:00pm—Campus Center Ballroom B & C

Closing Remarks

2:30pm—Campus Center Ballroom A

CURATION COMMITTEE

DYLAN GAFARIAN, Acting Dean

Extended and Experiential Learning

Sarina Turbendian, Assistant Director

Research Aligned Mentorship Program

Gregorio Diaz, Undergraduate Research Coordinator and Advisor

Research Aligned Mentorship Program

Allie McGlone, Academic Counselor

Research Aligned Mentorship Program

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FSC MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

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RAM PROGRAM STAFF

FACULTY EVALUATORS

This event is not possible without the efforts of our volunteer Faculty Evaluators—faculty members and research mentors. The success of the IGNITE Symposium is due in large part thanks to the many evaluators providing feedback to the student presenters throughout the Symposium. In addition to student feedback, the scores are used to award three posters, gift cards! (Poster Evaluator Rubric, p 14)

Jennifer Ackerman, RAM Program

Danielle Apfelbaum, Library

MaryBeth Apriceno, Applied Psychology

Deanna Devlin, Criminal Justice

Michael Fraina, Sport Management

Brianna Gonzalez, Applied Psychology

Rebecca Haas, RAM Program

Shohana Iffat, Civil Engineering

Jobeda Jamal Khanam, Computer & Electrical Engineering

Kevin Kucharczyk, Computer & Electrical Engineering

Yaping Li, Physics

SueAnn Lundquist, Support Programs

Kathy Machin, Library

Allie McGlone, RAM Program

Antigoni Papapdimitriou, Business Management

Bilas Paul, Physics

Fatoma Rad, Library

Theresa Zahor, Library

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dr. Michael A. Marino

Associate Professor of Chemistry with the Biology, Chemistry, and Environmental Science Department at Molloy University

Dr. Michael A. Marino is an Associate Professor at Molloy University and a dedicated advocate for undergraduate research. He holds an Ed.D. in Learning and Teaching (with a Specialization in Science Education) from Hofstra University. Over the past decade, Dr. Marino has mentored several undergraduate students, developing an engaging research program, using a vertically integrated project model. As a result, he was recognized for his mentorship, instructional innovation, and unwavering commitment to student success with the 2024 Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award.

Dr. Marino's scholarship serves as a bridge between high-level chemical innovation and classroom excellence. He is a co-inventor on three U.S. and international patents involving nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectroscopy, is the co-author of Measurements in Evaluating Science Education, and his current research explores the cognitive frontiers of science education- this includes investigating the comparative impact of virtual versus hands-on laboratories, as well as the effects of smell on memory in the chemistry classroom.

His recent contributions include a 2026 publication in the Royal Society of Chemistry's Chemistry Education Research and Practice (CERP) and a multidisciplinary project co-authored with faculty and undergraduate students, published in 2025 in the Journal of Chemical Education (JCE). As co-Principal Investigator on a six-year, $2 million NSF S-STEM grant, he is developing curriculum-embedded research opportunities to ensure scientific inquiry is accessible to all introductory STEM students.

Beyond the laboratory, Dr. Marino is a national leader in science education. He serves as the Field Editor for the Journal of College Science Teaching (JCST), develops hands-on workshops for faculty to learn new research and pedagogical skills, and is an active peer reviewer for the Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR). In 2025, he was honored with the Outstanding Committee Service Award from the American Chemical Society's (ACS) Division of Chemical Education.

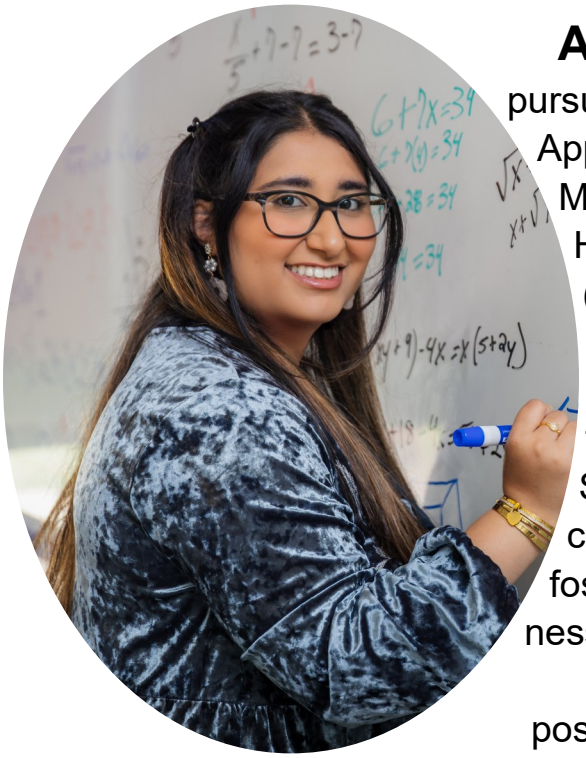
POSTER SESSION I

Poster	Poster Name	Presenters
1	Alternative Summer Break: Habitat for Humanity	Jonathan Colquhoun, Emma Burke, Omar Lubis, Jecson Villatoro, Ashly Ordonez, Keilyn Melgar, Priya Persad
2	Alternative Summer Break: ReWild & Island Harvest	Muhtasim Tawhid, Ana Valdez, Shelsen Joseph, Priya Persad, Tyler Henry, Janaiyah Hipps, Ariana Zari, Keilyn Melgar, Joseph Wood, Andrew Le, Jonathan Colquhoun, Emma Burke, Omar Lubis, Jecson Villatoro
3	Do US Green Building Council certified LEED buildings in New York consume	Fatima Shahzad
4	Am "AI" being replaced?	Naina Garg, Abigail Garrick, Jocelyn Cruz Bonilla
5	Calcium vs. Caries: The Dairy Showdown	Samantha Galarza, Lessly Machado, Maricela Guevara
6	Your Playlist, Your Style!	Allison Weed
7	The Impact of AI Literacy on Student Learning	Alejandro Santana, Carlos Tobar
8	Peer Mentoring: Division III Athletes	Amayalee Gonzalez, Tyler Hobson
9	More Than a Gut Feeling: How Periodontal Pathogens Affect the Gut-Brain Axis	Toni Anne Eschmann, Kaylin Doxey, Mariam Khanfri
10	Multitasking While Studying and the Relationship to Students' Perceived Concentration and Productivity	Aliea Ramlal
11	Examining the Lived Experiences of Black and Latino Gang Members	Daysi Zavala, Michelle Hernandez
12	Holistic Oral Health Aids and the Oral Cavity	Emily Pollio, Ivette Medina, Fazila Suleiman
13	PCOS: Beyond the Ovaries	Victoria Klich, Samantha Bellois, Shirel Hakimi
14	Enhancing Teaching Assistants' Ability to Support Student Social Dynamics in Introductory Physics Labs	Lilian Arriaza Alonzo

POSTER SESSION I

Poster	Poster Name	Presenters
15	Identifying Marine Invertebrates Associated With Shell Restoration Structures Utilizing DNA Barcoding	Pablo Quinonez, Mariam Adewuyi
16	The AI Revolution in Software Development: How AI	Jake Pepitone
17	Pica: A Taste for the Inedible	David Salmeron, Ashley Farnum, Victoria Miethe
18	Fluent in Algospeak: The Effect of Word Substitution on Perceived Meaning and Valence	Isabel Dholakia
19	Grandmother Caregivers: Aging Attitudes and Well-being	Josephine Anti, Andrew Martorella, Jenny Zhuang, Leena Qamar, Haley Vazquez, Karitika Kumari, Bridget Thearle, Olivia Turi
20	The Sweet Benefits of Xylitol: Xylitol in Chewing Gum	Jeremy Ypertty, Darlin Canales
21	From True Crime TV to Viral Bodycam Channels: The New Spectacle of Policing on YouTube	Jannet Baires
22	Propolis in Dentistry: A Natural Alternative in Dentistry	Britney Liew, Isabela Restrepo
23	Is There a Benefit to Invest in Classic Cars Compared to Traditional Investments?	Christian Doblan
24	SHPEP: Summer Health Professions Education Program	Rosanna Khan
25	To Be or Not to Be: Education on Oil Pulling	Giancarlos Gonzalez Morales, Katherine Morales, Taylor Nelson
26	Effect of Electrode Pad Shape on Strength of the Quadriceps Muscles After Anterior Cruciate Ligament Reconstruction Surgery	Stephanie Vasquez
27	AI, friend or foe to small business?	Matthew Fuller
28	Implications of Using Stem Cells to Regenerate Teeth	Jenny Choe, Zoe Diaz

SPARK SPEAKERS



Aliyah Adnan Khan is a dual-degree student pursuing a bachelor degrees in Applied Psychology and Applied Mathematics, with an expected graduation of May 2026. She is an inaugural member of the Honors Program, a Research Aligned Mentorship (RAM) Scholar, and an NSF S-STEM Scholar at Farmingdale State College. Aliyah is deeply engaged in leadership and advocacy, serving as the Founder and President of both the Honors Student Association and the NAMI on Campus chapter at Farmingdale. Through these roles, she fosters community, advances mental health awareness, and supports student well being across campus. Beyond Farmingdale, Aliyah has held leadership positions with NAMI's Youth Leadership Council and Education Committee, where she has organized youth focused mental health workshops, wellness summits, and community events. She plans to pursue a teaching career in special education and mathematics after graduating from FSC.

Damari Machado is a recent Fall 2025 graduate, earning her bachelors degree in Applied Psychology, alongside two micro credentials - Child Development and Research Methods. Damari served as a Peer leader and Coordinator in the RAM Program, during the RAM Summer Kick-Off events to welcome incoming RAM scholars. Damari has an extensive background in research, having completed an REU through FSC's Summer Undergraduate Research Institute (SURI) with the University of Utah College of Social Work on "Evaluating Implementation of a Statewide Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Training and Teleconsultation Program," as well as a fellowship with Teach for America, mentoring 8th grade students in college readiness. Currently, she is continuing her research on "The Experiences and Sense of Belonging Among the Dream.US Students at FSC." Damari aspires to have a career as a grade school Social Worker, specifically working with students with disabilities. She plans on pursuing a masters degree in Social Work at Hunter College.

SPARK SPEAKERS

Muhammad Abdullah Imran is pursuing a bachelors degree in Computer Science, with a minor in Applied Mathematics, expected to graduate in May 2026. He has interned as a Java and Flutter Developer at Shop Online New York, where he contributed to backend systems and a live mobile application for real users. He has served as a Tech Fellow at CodePath, mentoring over 30 students in problem-solving and technical skills. His work extends beyond the classroom, earning 1st place at the PSEG LI Innovation Challenge. He also completed the AI4ALL Ignite program, where he built an end-to-end AI project and developed a strong interest in artificial intelligence. Muhammad is currently building his own startup and plans to pursue a career in AI, with the goal of creating technology that is practical, impactful, and used in everyday life.

Dieunie Gousse is a Computer Science student, expected to graduate in May 2026. She has a strong foundation in software engineering, data structures, and web development, with a focus on turning ideas into real, working systems. She brings technical skill and leadership to her work. As Town of Huntington IT intern, she improved document workflows and digitized municipal records, making information easier to access. As a Tech Fellow at CodePath, she mentors students in breaking down coding problems and building confidence. She contributed as a frontend developer on projects like FinTrack and StockVision, where she designed user interfaces, integrated APIs, and helped deliver an AI-powered stock forecasting tool through the AI4ALL Ignite Program. Dieunie is passionate about building clean, user-focused applications and collaborating on meaningful tech solutions. She plans to pursue a career in software development, where she can create impactful products and continue to grow as an engineer.

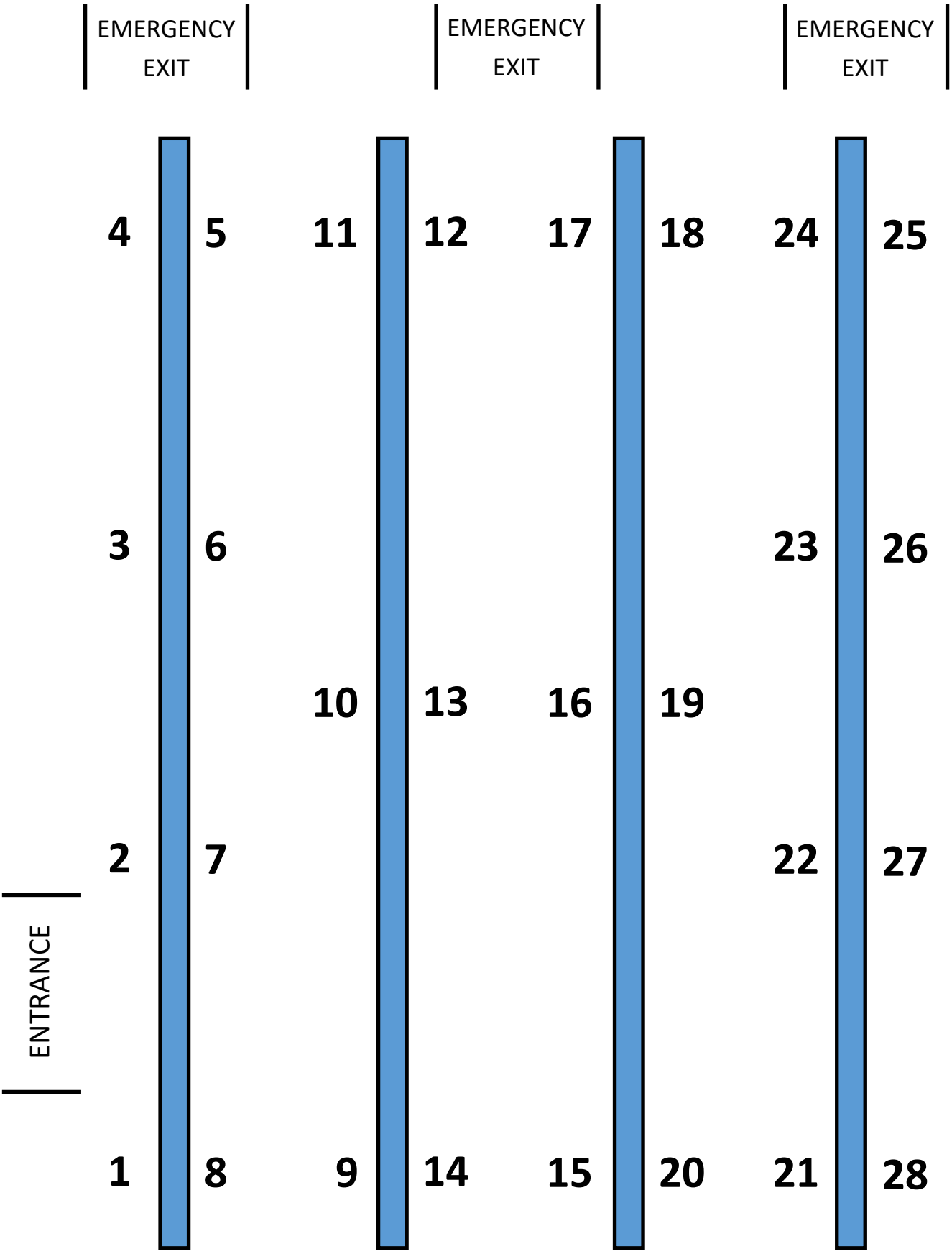
Stefanie Karayoff is a Mechanical Engineering Technology student whose work centers on accessibility, engineering optimization, and applied problem solving. Through the Future Nobel Laureate Scholarship, she traveled to Sweden to attend the Nobel Dialogues and present on environmental rights at the Berghs School of Communication, an experience that strengthened her commitment to solving large scale societal challenges. She has also advocated for STEM opportunity and education on Capitol Hill, emphasizing the importance of expanding pathways for future innovators. Stefanie a co-founder of SolarShare, a platform designed to expand household participation in community solar without requiring rooftop installation, rewiring, or provider switching. Her interdisciplinary work combines system architecture, regulatory strategy, and user centered workflow design. SolarShare bridges the gap in renewable energy by streamlining participation in Solar and delivering savings.

POSTER SESSION II

Poster	Poster Name	Presenters
1	Crash Risk Factors and Severe Motor Vehicle Outcomes in New York	Christopher Rechinda
2	Go for Gero: Masters students' perceptions of careers in geropsychology	Jonathan Colquhoun, Leena Qamar, Olivia Turi
3	Effects of Electroporation on Cryopreservation in Whole Mouse Cryosectioning	Lauren Varagnolo
4	Academic and Cultural Reflection on Japan	Aika Suizu, Tenshi Vinas
5	Strategic Adaptability in Design-Build Delivery	Bryan Cox, Kevin Aviles, Raul Ramdeholl, Charles Schueler, Kelly Parsley
6	Linguistics Framing and Norm Construction in Online Self-Harm Communities	Mia Dicicco
7	The Potential Effects of Pollutants on Long Island Lines Seahorse Pouch Formation	Matthew Rubesh, William Ruckh
8	RAM Tank 2026	Omar Lubis
9	An Open Versus Commercial Digital Biology Textbook	Janaiyah Hipps, Denise Lopez
10	For Whom the Trigger Warns: The Effects of Trigger Warning on Avoidance and Morbid Curiosity	Daniel Gasparik
11	SolarShare: Expanding Access to Community Solar	Stefanie Karayoff, Dieunie Gousse, Muhammad Imran
12	The Electrical Noise in LED Voltage Fluctuations	David Adejare
13	Studying the Impact of Improv-Based Social Skills Groups on Adolescents and Teenagers	Isabella Wilkens
14	Fault Injections Techniques Assessing the Dependability of Digital Systems	Olexiy Klymovets, Sydney Simpkins, ZsayKaryzmh Harris

POSTER SESSION II

Poster	Poster Name	Presenters
15	Prosecution of Environmental Crimes: Factors Influencing	Robert Dolgos
16	First Principles of Ionic Conductivity of Crystalline Amorphous LiNbCl6 Solid-State Electrolytes for Lithium Batteries	Lawrence Lena, Justin Bordonaro
17	Social Media as Evidence and Policy in Suffolk County Gang-Related Investigations	Ashley Granger
18	The Impact of Horror Movie Sound Effects on PTSD Response	Daysi Zavala
19	Issues Facing Intercollegiate Athletic Directors	Madison DeMaio, Tyler Henry
20	Loneliness, Isolation, and Anxiety as a Result of the Covid-19 Pandemic	Emma Brown
21	Matching Invertebrate Predator Species of Caterpillars With Their Bite Marks: A Validation	Daniel Velasquez, Jecson Villatoro
22	Social Dynamics in Online Eating Disorder Communities: A Multi-Platform Analysis	Lisa Manno
23	Natural Language to Motion in Digital Twins: Driving a Simulated UR3e Cobot Using GPT in Unreal Engine	Brenda Galdamez, Luis Ramos Dominguez
24	Evaluating Implementation of a Statewide Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Training and Telecommunication	Damari Machado
25	Personal Tragedy for Entertainment: Perceived Morality of True Crime Content	Haley Vazquez, Thomas Rivardo
26	Symbolic AI or Substantive Adoption: Institutional Pressures and Workforce Signals in Organizational AI Integration	Daniel Arena, Louis Case, Benjamin Burdo, Kyle Brukner
27	Solar-Powered, Self-Functioning Pond Cleaning Robots	Nia Bardavelidze
28	The Effect of Resolving Uncertainty on Facial Expression, Visual Path, and Affect	Rosa Della-Corte-Romano



CAMPUS BALLROOM B & C

SECTION I: EVALUATOR INFORMATION

Evaluator Name:

Which Sessions are you evaluating: ◯ SESSION 1 (AM) ◯ SESSION 2 (PM)

SECTION II: POSTER INFORMATION

Poster Number:

Abstract (How well does the student summarize their project?)

◯	◯	◯
1 - (unclear or missing completely)	2 - (somewhat clear but limited)	3 - (present, clear, and well written)

Introduction/Background (How well does the student present the overall issue/message in their project?)

◯	◯	◯
1 - (unclear or missing completely)	2 - (somewhat clear but limited)	3 - (present, clear, and well written)

Hypothesis/Objectives (How well does the student explain the purpose of their project?)

◯	◯	◯
1 - (unclear or missing completely)	2 - (somewhat clear but limited)	3 - (present, clear, and well written)

Activity/Methods (How well does the student describe how they conducted or implemented the project?)

◯	◯	◯
1 - (unclear or missing completely)	2 - (somewhat clear but limited)	3 - (present, clear, and well written)

Outcomes/Lessons (How well does the student describe what the project culminated and/or what they learned?)

◯	◯	◯
1 - (unclear or missing completely)	2 - (somewhat clear but limited)	3 - (present, clear, and well written)

Poster Aesthetics (legible, well designed, easy to understand)

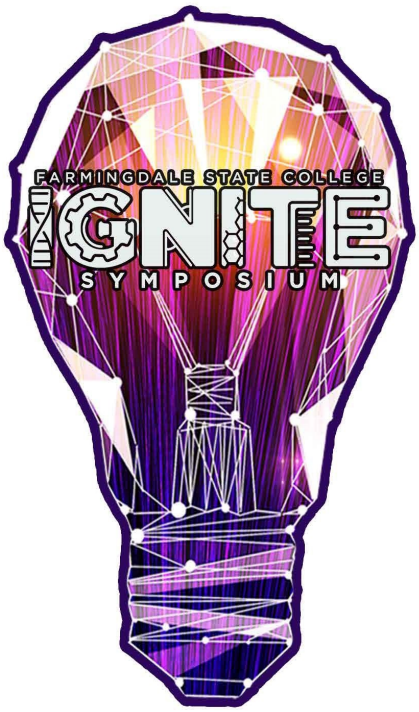
◯	◯	◯
1 - (Disorganized and Poorly Done)	2 - (Somewhat clear and legible)	3 - (Concise, legible, visually pleasing)

Overall Presentation (How well did the student explain their poster)

◯ 0- (Student was not present or did not provide any information)
◯ 1 - (Information presented was difficult to understand and confusing)
◯ 2 - (Presentation is somewhat unclear or inconsistent, but overall understandable)
◯ 3 - (Presentation was clear, logical, and concise. Student presented information expertly)

Additional Comments (Please Provide Any Comments/Notes Below):

FEEDBACK SURVEY

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