

## Winners of the 2016 McGraw Hill Poster Contest

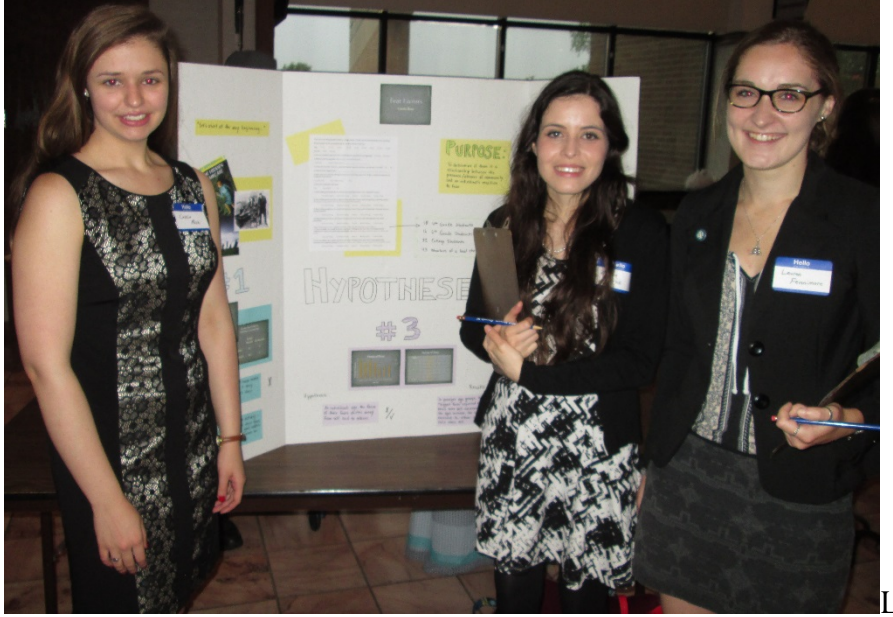


Above Left to Right: Elizabeth Griffin, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Cassia Rose 1<sup>st</sup>, and Angelica Fuentes, 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The 9<sup>th</sup> annual McGraw-Hill Poster contest on Friday 29 April 2016 again was a high-water mark for scholarly verve and discernment in our region. The contest in the Whatley Foyer of Northeast Texas Community College brought twelve judges from the community into animated conversations with twenty of the college's most decorated student scholars. This has been an annual test of creative research in Northeast Texas, funded in part by the McGraw-Hill Corporation, and judged by friends of the college, and Honors Northeast.

In first place, winning \$400 as well as a \$175 McGraw-Hill Gift Certificate was Cassia Rose, the “southern star” of Honors and Theatre Northeast. In the past two years, Rose has been featured in theatre and film productions as Bonnie Parker, Annelle in *Steel Magnolias*, the “mother of Northeast Texas”--Harriet Potter Ames, and Texas Governor Ma Ferguson. This time, the actress featured her extensively memorized work performed last spring in the NTCC StatPsych Honors Seminar on “Fear Factors.” Her poster examined ways in which the presence of community and friendship allays and refocuses anxieties.

Cassia is the daughter of the Reverend David and Rachel Rose from Winnsboro.



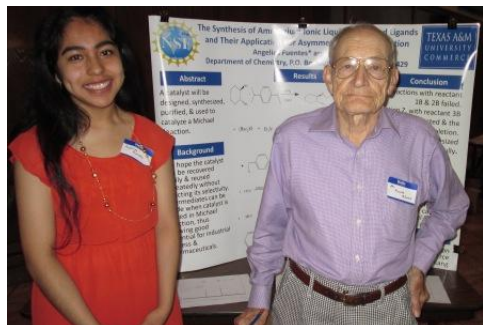
Left to Right above: Cassia Rose, and judges (former NTCC Presidential Scholars) Andrea Cruz, and Lauren Fennimore.

**The contest was open to any university, college or high school senior who wished to compete. Again, however, NTCC Presidential Scholars monopolized the winners circle. Elizabeth Griffin from Pittsburg came in second place (\$300) with a poster on creativity in music. She argued that “groundbreaking musical events” depend on composers who know enough to break the right compositional rules at the right time. She is the daughter of Dr. Steven and Joy Griffin.**



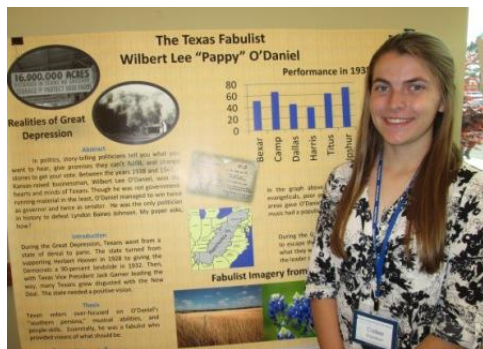
Above, Elizabeth Griffin with Margaret and Curtis Durham who donated primary documents used by NTCC scholars.

In third place (\$200), came Angelica Fuentes. She reported on research performed last summer in a special REU fellowship at Texas A&M Commerce on the "Synthesis of Ammonium Ionic Liquid Supported Ligands and their Application in Michael Reaction." Fuentes, the president of the BioChem student association on campus, was one of the fifteen students of the nation to win a coveted 2016 Guistwhite Award for academic achievements. She is the daughter of Jose and Angelica Fuentes of Mount Pleasant.



Above: Angelica Fuentes with poster judge, Frank Adams of Mount Pleasant.

Finally Cailee Davidson came in fourth place (\$100). She is the daughter of Caleb and Jami Davidson from Upshur County. Her work was on Texas Governor Pappy O'Daniel. She typified the unusually electable politician, O'Daniel, as a "Fabulist" for an appeal that was based neither on reality or history, but on the stories he popularized as a singer, and radio personality.



Above Cailee Davidson with poster.

The college is indebted to its friends who have made nine poster contests possible, providing vantage points beyond those already provided by the faculty, and administrators. This year, the following community supporters judged the contest: From Mount Pleasant: Frank Adams, Suzanne Boatner, Glenda Brogoitti; Lauren Fennimore, Judy Hamilton, Rev. Dr. Wayne Renning, and Dr. Jerry Wesson; From Hughes Springs: Wanda Cockrill, Andrea Cruz, Tyler Moore; From Pittsburg: Claudia Henderson, and NTCC Trustee Chuck Johns.

Celine Koch, of McGraw Hill's corporate office in Iowa served as the pivotal contact in re-enabling this annual contest locally this year.

The following other students developed original ideas in research this past year at NTCC, enabling them to compete in the contest: From Daingerfield: Steven Vaught; From Jefferson: Morgan Capps; From Mount Pleasant: Isaac Burris, William Jones, Kassandra Martinez, Presley McClendon; Ryan-Rose Mendoza, Melody Mott, and Hector Zuniga; From Mount Vernon: Jessica Velazquez; From Omaha: Emmalea Shaw; From Ore City: Laney Jordan; From Pittsburg: Tanner Jones, Gabriela and Genesis Quezada; From Winnsboro: Alecia Spurlin.

Honors Director, Dr. Andrew Yox, noted: **“Dr. Jerry Wesson a former NTCC Vice President, and another long-term poster judge, Rev. Dr. Wayne Renning remarked to me that this year’s students were especially compelling. We are very thankful for the unique configuration of support for scholarship here, and for how this is being leveraged for other regional and national student awards.”**

For any questions about the poster contest or about Honors Northeast, contact Dr. Andrew Yox (434-8229) or [ayox@ntcc.edu](mailto:ayox@ntcc.edu).

