



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Adam Kessler, Education Manager  
[adam@awfs.org](mailto:adam@awfs.org)  
(323) 215-0312

## **Students Earn Honors and Prizes in AWFS Fair Student Competition**

Nearly Four Dozen Students Accept Awards at Fresh Wood and Turning to the Future Ceremony

**LAS VEGAS** – (July 20, 2019) – Nicholas Maraldo, a student at Furniture Institute of Massachusetts won the Best of Show award in the 2019 AWFS® Fresh Wood Competition after judges reviewed 42 finalist projects of from 25 different high schools and colleges in the U.S. at the 2019 AWFS®Fair in Las Vegas, Nevada. Thirty-three Fresh Wood student finalists went home with monetary prizes ranging from \$250 to \$1,000, along with trophies and software prizes.

Maraldo was awarded an iconic sculpture made by renowned woodworker and artist Judson Beaumont, a reference to his work *The Apple Cabinet*, which was unveiled during the award ceremony. He received \$1,000 and a KCD Software Package. He also received First Place in the Post Secondary Tables category of the competition, which included another \$1,000 prize and a Certificate of Merit. The Best of Show award is sponsored by KCD Software.

Fair attendees awarded the People’s Choice Award, sponsored by Wagner Meters, and a \$750 prize to Cole Daniels at Rolla Technical Institute, for his project Hard Ninety, an originally designed shuffleboard with intricate paneling and accenting, which also won Second Place in the 2019 High School Special Theme Category: Sports and Games.

A new Bravo to Teachers award was given out, thanks to sponsor PantoRouter, who presented a well-deserving teacher they selected with a PantoRouter tool: the recipient was Joe Davis from Dale Jackson Career Center in Flower Mound, Texas. Joe’s student Kyle Hassett also won First Place in the High School “Sports and Games” Category for his poker table “The Big Slick.

Fresh Wood category sponsors were introduced in 2019, and AWFS thanks the following for their support: Next Wave Automation, Design for Production Category Sponsor; LIGNIA Wood Company Ltd, Seating Category Sponsor; and Northwest Hardwoods, Table Category Sponsor.

The Fresh Wood 2019 judging panel - consisting of Bob Barone (Precision Drive Spindles/PDS); Judson Beaumont (Straight Line Design); Scott Grove (Imagine Grove); Wendy Maruyama (Wendy Maruyama Studio) and Jim Wellever (Michigan Career & Technical Institute) - provided a variety of perspectives to the judging process.

First Place winners in each category and at each school level received a \$1,000 prize, Second Place winners received \$500 and Honorable Mention winners received \$250. AWFS covers project shipping and the majority of travel and hotel costs to bring the students and their teachers to Las Vegas.

The biennial event, held as part of [AWFS®Fair](#), attracted 188 entries from schools in the United States.

### **AAW Turning to the Future Students Honored for Talent in Turning**

Meanwhile, six students received awards and prizes in the American Association of Woodturning (AAW) Turning to the Future Competition. Thanks to the contest sponsors, the two Best of Show winners received Jet 1221SP Midi-Lathe (Woodworker's Emporium), and category winners received cash prizes of \$500 (First Place) and \$100 (Second Place) and a tool set from Easy Wood Tools or Woodpeckers. Judging was completed by professional and recognized wood turners Stuart Batty and Christian Brisepierre. The Turning to the Future winners are as follows:

High School – Grand Prize

**Oregon Beauty by Charlie Hamilton, Mills E Godwin High School**

High School - First Place

**African Diamonds by Joel Gonnerman, St. Ansgar High School**

High School - Second Place

**Noah Robishek for Wooden Windows, Traverse City Central**

Post Secondary - Grand Prize

**Joyce Kunz with Ray of Light, Brigham Young University**

And Post-Secondary – First Place

**Alec Ellis for Walnut Cathedral, Red Rocks Community College**

Post-Secondary –Second Place:

**Justin Fiaschetti for Tornado Bowl, Boston University**

### **About AWFS®:**

The full-scale international [AWFS®Fair](#), held Wednesday - Saturday, July 17-20, 2019 in Las Vegas, has become a critical hub for international commerce in the woodworking industry. The AWFS®Fair brings together the entire home and commercial furnishings industry, including manufacturers and distributors of machinery, hardware, plastics, lumber, construction materials and other suppliers to the furniture, cabinet manufacturers and custom woodworkers. For more information on the AWFS®Fair, please visit: [AWFSFair.org](#).

FW 2019 Winning Project Info

Award	Category/Level	Title	Student Name	School Name
First Place	2019 Special Theme: Sports and Games - High School	The Big Slick	Kyle Hassett	Dale Jackson Career Center
Second Place	2019 Special Theme: Sports and Games - High School	Hard Ninety	Cole Daniels	Rolla Technical Institute
First Place	Case Goods - High School	Oops! I Broke It.	Kailan Weidner	Mustang High School
Second Place	Case Goods - High School	Zig Zag Corner Cabinet TV Stand	Garrett Visscher	Fremont High School
First Place	Design for Production - High School	Super Scoot	Jack Reznich	Frankfort High School
Second Place	Design for Production - High School	Riot Arts Gaming Chair	Chandler Norton	Reed-Custer High School
First Place	Open Category - High Schools	Serenity	Keaton Carter	Corner Canyon High School
Second Place	Open Category - High Schools	Rosetta	Braxton Zarbock	Corner Canyon High School
Honorable Mention	Open Category - High Schools	Angry Fish	Maxwell Stange	Cadillac High School
First Place	Seating - High School	L. & J.G. Stickley Prairie Chair	Logan Miller	Lincoln East High School
Second Place	Seating - High School	Sinking Chair	Katja Peereboom	Cedar Ridge High School
Honorable Mention	Seating - High School	The Limbert	Caidell Davis	Lincoln East High School
First Place	Tables - High School	Visions of Rhythm	Spencer Johnson	Corner Canyon High School
Second Place	Tables - High School	Zarycha Safari	Zack Holt	Mustang High School
Honorable Mention	Tables - High School	Honestly Elegant	Matthew Steger	Dakota High School
First Place	2019 Special Theme: Sports and Games - Post Secondary	Detach	Valerie Alt	California College of the Arts
Second Place	2019 Special Theme: Sports and Games - Post Secondary	Game Table	Ryan Tirrell	Brigham Young University
First Place	Case Goods - Post Secondary	Cabinet End Table	Christopher Merchant	Center for Furniture Craftsmanship
Second Place	Case Goods - Post Secondary	Walnut Jewelry Cabinet	Zala Ouyang	North Bennet Street School
Honorable Mention	Case Goods - Post Secondary	Chest of Drawers	Alexander Tolini	Haywood Community College
Honorable Mention	Case Goods - Post Secondary	Mt. Rockvale Vanity	Tyler Willmon	Center for Furniture Craftsmanship
First Place	Design for Production - Post Secondary	72.5 Chair	Nathan Miklo	Iowa State University
Second Place	Design for Production - Post Secondary	Artist's Desk	Osamu Sassa	Center for Furniture Craftsmanship
First Place	Open Category - Post Secondary	Mahogany Music Stand	Zala Ouyang	North Bennet Street School
Second Place	Open Category - Post Secondary	Coupe de Ville Mid Century Bed	Zachary Spahr	Pittsburg State University
First Place	Seating - Post Secondary	Coopered Daybed	Osamu Sassa	Center for Furniture Craftsmanship
Second Place	Seating - Post Secondary	Maritza's Bench	Alexander Lohn	Center for Furniture Craftsmanship
Honorable Mention	Seating - Post Secondary	Stuffed Sapele	Sam Galliat	Pittsburg State University
Honorable Mention	Seating - Post Secondary	Recidivus	Scott Nelson	The Krenov School
First Place	Tables - Post Secondary	Nautical Marquetry Table	Nicholas Maraldo	The Furniture Institute of Massachusetts
Second Place	Tables - Post Secondary	Convex Desk	Christopher Merchant	Center for Furniture Craftsmanship
Honorable Mention	Tables - Post Secondary	Cuban Mahogany Night Stands	Joshua Sterns	The Krenov School
Best of Show		Nautical Marquetry Table	Nicholas Maraldo	The Furniture Institute of Massachusetts
People's Choice		Hard Ninety	Cole Daniels	Rolla Technical Institute
Bravo to Teacher			Joe Davis	Dale Jackson Career Center