

# PRESS RELEASE



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## **A new generation of scientists: Vanier College student is a big Winner at provincial Science Fair**

When awards were handed out at the Quebec Finals of the 30<sup>th</sup> Super Expo-sciences Bell held in Montreal, April 16-20, Rami Sayar, a Science Plus Health Science student at Vanier College, was one of the biggest prize winners. He not only earned the Gold Medal in the Senior Category but he also garnered a number of other prizes and scholarships valued at over \$11,000. He will now go on to represent Vanier College and the province of Quebec at the Canada-Wide Science Fair, in Ottawa on May 10-18, 2008, and to compete at the MILSET International Science Fair in Nabeul, Tunisia, in July 2009.



“I have a fundamental interest in the way things work,” he explains. “I have always been fascinated by video games and I continually have questions about the inner functioning of them. This led me to look into developing my own video games.” It’s not surprising, therefore, that his winning science project was on artificial intelligence and game engine design. He created a platform in software for simulating artificial intelligence in a virtual environment. To do this he designed the software for services such as graphics, sound effects, music, visual effects and movement, necessary for producing simulations in a 3D game environment.

Rami describes, “The game engine provides many features that enhance the user experience as well as producing realistic video games. It is flexible enough to be able to accommodate any type of artificial intelligence as well as any game type. The interesting aspect of the artificial intelligence is that I combine two models, neural networks and genetic algorithms to produce a dynamic, learning artificial intelligence. Neural networks attempt to mimic the brain and genetic algorithms mimic evolution theory.”

It all sounds a little daunting, but Rami Sayar conveys the pleasure of the experience very simply, “The Provincial Science Fair was extremely fun and I had the opportunity to meet a lot of interesting people. And yeah, I am going to Nationals and Internationals!!!!!!!!!!!!”

Rami Sayar is thinking of eventually studying Medicine, but for now his greatest pleasure is ... “Sleeping!” Not surprising for a seventeen-year old who until recently worked 16-hour weekend shifts at MacDonalD’s “to help pay for Medical School eventually...” while maintaining a very high academic average, and spending countless hours researching and working on his winning science project. And what do his parents think? Grinning ear to ear, Rami answers, “They are ecstatic!”

This year, the renowned Super Expo-sciences Bell competition, organized by the Conseil de développement du loisir scientifique (CDLS), in cooperation with the École de technologie supérieure, brought together 152 young competitors from all regions of Quebec to compete for overall prizes valued at more than \$260,000, in recognition of their exceptional work.

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