

**PRESS RELEASE FROM
LEGISLATOR LESLIE KENNEDY.**



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CONTACT: Zach Viola
LEGISLATIVE AIDE
PHONE: (631) 854-3735
FAX: (631) 854-3744
Email: zach.viola@suffolkcountyny.gov

Intel Semi-Finalist Honored by Leslie Kennedy at General Meeting



(Legislator Leslie Kennedy presenting a proclamation to Emily McDermott)

April 12, 2016 – Some students rise above and beyond their fellow classmates, all students are called to study and prepare for their exams, but some students go the extra mile, and Emily McDermott is one such student. Having been selected as one of the few Intel Semi-Finalists for her research, Legislator Leslie Kennedy (R-Nesconset) saw it fitting to honor her before the full legislature last Tuesday.

Ms. McDermott conducted her research with a team at Stony Brook University in the lab of Dr. Joshua Rest. Emily's work is titled "Developing an Experimental Model for Natural Variation in

Genetic Robustness” which focused on genetic robustness that occurs naturally. The variation in robustness tends to be quite large and she sought to find a relationship that could explain the variation of naturally occurring robustness. The work that was performed by Emily was on the level of graduate study lab work and Emily did all of her own code writing for this study.

Legislator Leslie Kennedy was pleased to present Emily with a proclamation for her hard work and diligence in her research “Not many young people are capable of doing what this young lady is able to accomplish in a lab, she is an inspiration for young men and women who want to go into the sciences” said Legislator Kennedy.

Emily is a senior at Smithtown East High School, and she is one of only three hundred people nationwide who have been chosen as Intel Semi-Finalists for their work in the sciences.

For more information or information about other community events feel free to contact Legislator Kennedy's office directly at (631)-854-3735 or contact us on Facebook at facebook.com/legislatorlesliekennedy.

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