



**Our Lady of the Elms School Receives
*Governor's Awards for Excellence in
Youth Science Opportunities***

AKRON, Ohio (Oct 1, 2010) The Ohio Academy of Science selected 115 Ohio schools and 418 teachers to receive Governor's Awards for Excellence in Youth Science Opportunities for their accomplishments during the 2009-2010 school year. The Ohio Department of Education will issue special Governor's Award certificates to **Our Lady of the Elms and Science Teacher, Cristina Jones.**

"These schools are engaged in project-based curricula, the central element of any STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) program," said Lynn Elfner, the Academy's CEO.

"Receiving a Governor's Award for Excellence sends a clear signal that these schools and teachers value student-originated, inquiry-based education as outlined in the *Ohio Science Education Standards* and in the *National Science Education Standards*," said Lynn Elfner, the Academy's CEO. "Whole new worlds of opportunities open up to students when they complete research or technological design projects," he continued.

In 2009-2010, Cristina Jones obtained grants from GAR and ACCESS for the Middle School CSI unit and a grant to take the entire Middle School to the Challenger Learning Center in Wheeling, VA. Jones also organized and implemented the Science Fair for our Middle School students, inviting girls from neighboring Catholic elementary schools to participate. Ten of Jones' students

advanced to District competition and three moved on to the State Science Fair.

Those three earned ratings of excellent and superior at the state level of competition.

To qualify for the Governor's Award, each school conducted a local science fair with 20 or more students, sent one or more of these students to one of the Academy's 16 district science days, and involved students in one or more youth science opportunities beyond the classroom such as State Science Day, visits to museums, mentorship programs and extended field trips.

The Ohio Academy of Science initiated this educational partnership program in cooperation with The Office of The Governor and the Ohio Department of Education to recognize schools and teachers who stimulate student scientific research and extend science education opportunities beyond traditional classroom activities. The Technology Division of The Ohio Department of Development has supported this program since 1985 by grants to The Ohio Academy of Science.

Our Lady of the Elms is an independent Catholic college preparatory school immersed in the Dominican tradition of education and dedicated to meeting the intellectual, spiritual, social and personal needs of girls grades one through 12 and co-ed preschool through kindergarten. The Elms welcomes girls of every religion, race, nationality and ethnic origin.

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nationality and ethnic origin. For more information, please contact Carli Miller at 330.867.0148.

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