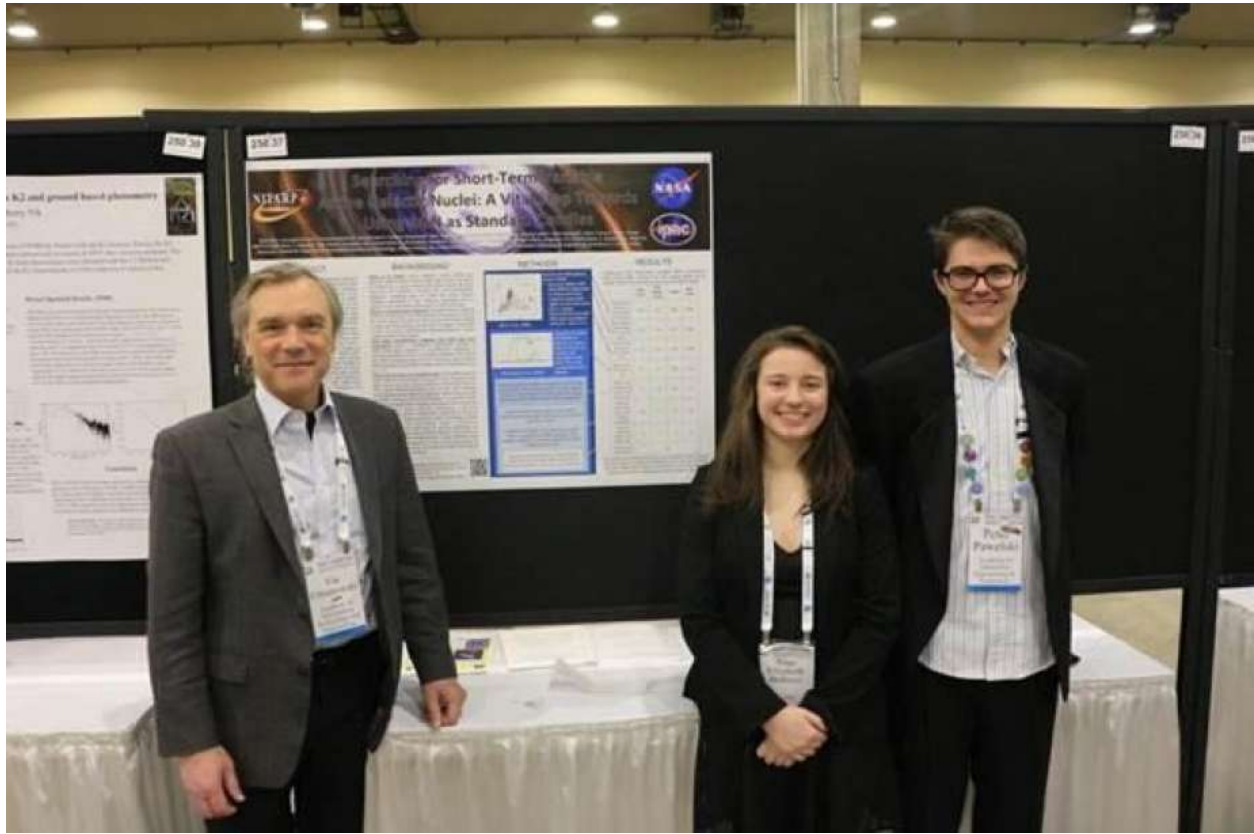




http://www.stamfordadvocate.com/local/article/Stamford-students-participate-in-NASA-program-10962069.php

Stamford students participate in NASA program

By **Nelson Oliveira** Updated 10:39 am, Monday, February 27, 2017



AITE math teacher Vin Urbanowski, along with seniors Nina Bellusci and Peter Pawelski.

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STAMFORD – Two high school seniors at the Academy of Information Technology and Engineering recently participated in a research program run by NASA.

Nina Bellusci and Peter Pawelski, along with AITE math teacher Vin Urbanowski, traveled to Grapevine, Texas, earlier this year to present the

results of a yearlong research project to the American Astronomical Society.

The program began last summer and continued throughout the following months with online collaboration and weekly videoconferencing under the guidance of astronomer Varoujan Gorjian.

The AITE team, along with representatives from high schools in Tennessee, Massachusetts and Virginia, used mathematical and scientific tools to identify active galactic nuclei from infrared data collected by the Spitzer Space Telescope.

"Everybody thinks astronomers spend all their time looking through telescopes," Bellusci said in a news release. "But what really happens is that they look at measurements of light at various wavelengths for lots and lots of stars, and do math to find out if the theories are right."

Their teacher praised the team in a statement.

"I'm proud of these kids for learning so much about astronomy," Urbanowski said, "and even prouder still of the lesson they learned about the way science works."

The project culminated in a poster, titled "Searching for Short-Term Variable Active Galactic Nuclei: A Vital Step Toward Using AGN as Standard Candles."

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