

# THE WEST WEEKLY



February 9, 2026

## HS West Seniors Receive National School Development Council Award

On January 28th, seniors **Ryan Davidsen** and **Jacob Bergman** were honored with the National School Development Council (NSDC) Award. This prestigious recognition is given to students who consistently pursue a high level of academic effort while serving as positive role models for their peers. Both Ryan and Jacob exemplify the admirable character and leadership we strive for at West. Congratulations to them and their dedicated guidance counselors, Michele Randall and Isabella Aviles.



## Penumbra Magazine Earns National "Excellent" Distinction



We are incredibly proud to announce that Penumbra, the student-produced literary magazine of High School West, has been recognized as an "excellent" publication by the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE). Out of 456 submissions nationwide,

Penumbra stood out in the REALM (Recognizing Excellence in Art and Literary Magazines) program for its celebration of student writing and art. Congratulations to English teacher Mr. Rob Kuletsky and our talented student editors and contributors: Noah Millar, Maxwell Alpert, Iman Khan, Kaitlynn Jho, Sophia Marmara, Alexis DiBernardo, Mariella Myers, and Gwen Fitzpatrick.



## Science Olympiad Heading to States for Third Consecutive Year

Congratulations to our phenomenal Science Olympiad team for their outstanding performance at the regional competition held on Saturday, January 31st. For the third year in a row, Smithtown High School West has qualified for the New York State competition! This remarkable achievement is a testament to the students' passion for discovery and the dedicated mentorship of advisors Nicole Paul and Catherine Abbott. We are so proud of this "three-peat" and look forward to cheering them on at the state level.

On January 27th, we celebrated High School West students **Asha Andrews, Veronika Leshko, and Giuliana Panzini** for graduating from the BAE Systems Women in Technology (WiT) program. Over nine weeks, these students gained hands-on experience in mechanical, electrical, and software engineering, concluding the program with impressive technical projects.

## Michael Cascione Joins the 1,000-Point Club



## Engineering the Future: Women in Technology Graduation



## Virtual Enterprise Firms Advance to State Top 50

High School West's Virtual Enterprise (VE) program has reached a major milestone! We are thrilled to share that both of our West VE firms – Elevate Performance and ImmersiFIT – have advanced to the Top 50 in the New York State Business Plan Competition. In a field of over 150 firms and 2,300 students from across the region, this achievement highlights our students' real-world business acumen and leadership. Both teams will continue to the next round of competition at the end of February, with the goal of advancing to the Youth Business Summit finals in NYC this April. Congratulations to our hardworking business students:

- Elevate Performance (left): **Julia Carbuccia, Daniel Braga, Jacqueline Reisen, Landon Fischer, Brooke Visnius, and Jack Cavanagh**
- ImmersiFIT (right): **Katerina Miller, Zachary Aronson, Alexxis Horner, Ashley Mennella, and Mallory Waller**

