

## COUNTY OF SUFFOLK

**KATE BROWNING**

County Legislator, 3rd District  
Public Safety Committee, Chair



COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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### Media Release

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# Legislator Kate Browning Honors BNL Science Fair Winner Alexis Hollingsworth

*Ridge Elementary Student Takes First Place with Food Dye Experiment*



*(Legislator Kate Browning, left, presents a proclamation to science fair winner Alexis Hollingsworth in front of her science experiment display at the legislature in Hauppauge.)*

**Hauppauge, NY** – Alexis Hollingsworth, a student at the Ridge Elementary School in Longwood, participated in the 2017 Brookhaven National Laboratory Science Fair, and was recognized for her superior creativity as her project was one of the winners. Legislator Kate Browning (WF-Shirley) honored Alexis with a proclamation at the Suffolk County Legislature's June 6 general meeting.

Alexis Hollingsworth's parents would not allow her to eat foods containing artificial food dye because they told her that synthetic dyes were unhealthy and damaging to her growth. Alexis Hollingsworth's

hypothesis was that artificial food dye is completely safe, as is stated by the FDA. Alexis attempted to grow grass with four different types of water in her experiment; plain water with no dye, water containing red #40, water containing yellow #5, and water containing blue#1. On Day 10 of her experiment, the grass grown in plain water had not only germinated, but was tall, green, shiny and a picture of good health. The grass in all of the other containers had not grown at all. By Day 14, the final day of her experiment, the grass in the other three containers had finally grown, but the grass without artificial food dye was clearly healthier than others. Alexis conceded that based on her results, artificial food dyes are harmful to living things.

“Challenging our youth in the field of science is extremely important to their development and future success,” said Legislator Browning. “Alexis made certain assumptions that turned out to be false, and in doing so learned that research can provide important answers that help our society progress and grow. I know this was a wonderful experience for the kids and I want to thank Brookhaven National Lab for hosting the contest again this year.”

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