

Urbandale High School Senior Presents Global Food Security Solutions To World Leaders
Sreeja Vepa presents innovative research during the Borlaug Dialogue International Symposium as part of the prestigious World Food Prize Global Youth Institute

URBANDALE, Iowa – November 15, 2016 – [Urbandale High School \(UHS\)](#) senior, Sreeja Vepa, was among 200 high school students from around the world nominated to attend the World Food Prize [Global Youth Institute](#) during the [Borlaug Dialogue International Symposium](#). The Symposium, which took place in Des Moines on October 13–15, 2016, drew 1,500 people from more than 60 countries to discuss the world’s hunger and food security issues. Vepa had the opportunity to meet world leaders, research global food security issues, present her findings to a diverse group of internationally renowned World Food Prize Laureates and exchange knowledge and ideas with students, educators, and professionals regarding pressing global food security and agricultural issues. The World Food Prize was founded by Nobel Peace Prize laureate [Dr. Norman Borlaug](#) to recognize and inspire great achievements in improving the quality, quantity and availability of food in the world.

"Attending the Global Youth Institute was an amazing experience," said Vepa. "I was able to interact with inspiring adults and talented students. World Food Prize opened my eyes to many issues and solutions surrounding world hunger. Thanks to the influential people I met and experiences I now have, I feel motivated and excited to apply my new knowledge to my everyday life."



Sreeja Vepa, UHS senior, accepting a certificate of recognition from former World Food Prize Laurette and experts involved with food scarcity during the Borlaug Dialogue International Symposium.

“Let Food Be Thy Medicine” was the theme of this year’s World Food Prize Borlaug Dialogue International Symposium and gave special emphasis on the crucial role of nutrition in global food security, leadership, biofortification, conflict and infrastructure. Vepa researched and developed a thought-provoking paper on the theme "Feeding Innovation, Fighting Hunger" and took part in roundtable discussions with experts in industry, science, academia and policy. Participants helped with a hands-on service project packaging meals for Outreach, Inc., a hunger-fighting organization that serves people in the United States and internationally, toured

innovative research and industrial facilities and took part in an interactive Oxfam Hunger Banquet that brought to life the realities of hunger and poverty.

"There are few situations where high school students are given the opportunity to network with leaders in policy and agriculture from around the world," said UHS Extended Learning Program Teacher Karlee McKibban. "The World Food Prize provides an exceptional event (in our own backyard!) where education, problem solving, and communication between students and industry experts is not only encouraged but expected. What a great experience to be involved in!"

Building on her experiences during the Global Youth Institute, Vepa plans on applying for a Borlaug-Ruan International Internship this summer. The Urbandale Community School District congratulates Vepa for her outstanding work in researching global food security issues, proposing insightful and actionable solutions and admirably representing UHS while meeting students and experts from around the world. To learn more about how Urbandale is transforming education, visit: UrbandaleSchools.com and follow on Twitter [@UrbandaleSchool](https://twitter.com/UrbandaleSchool).

About The World Food Prize

The World Food Prize was founded in 1986 by Dr. Norman E. Borlaug, recipient of the 1970 Nobel Peace Prize. Since then, The World Food Prize has honored outstanding individuals who have made vital contributions to improving the quality, quantity or availability of food throughout the world. Laureates have been recognized from Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Cape Verde, China, Denmark, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Israel, Mexico, Sierra Leone, Switzerland, Uganda, the United Kingdom, the United Nations and the United States. In 1990, Des Moines businessman and philanthropist John Ruan assumed sponsorship of The Prize and established The World Food Prize Foundation, located in Des Moines, Iowa. To learn more, visit: worldfoodprize.org/youth

The World Food Prize Foundation
100 Locust Street
Des Moines, IA 50309

About Urbandale Community School District

The Urbandale Community School District includes portions of Des Moines and Urbandale, Iowa. The District serves over 3,900 students in six elementary schools, one middle school and one comprehensive high school. The Urbandale District supports an increasingly diverse student population where 47 languages are spoken. Building on the existing foundation of excellence in education, Urbandale is transforming education throughout the District. By implementing innovative [Quality/Continual Improvement](#) strategies that create learning environments that more fully engage, challenge and motivate students, Urbandale is taking transformation from theory into practice. Urbandale prepares students for becoming lifelong learners and is a school district that brings learning to life for everyone. To learn more, visit: UrbandaleSchools.com and follow on Twitter [@UrbandaleSchool](https://twitter.com/UrbandaleSchool).

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