

Horizon Science Academy student wins contest

Alexis Dill

The Chronicle-Telegram

LORAIN — It took until the third time, but Horizon Science Academy of Lorain sophomore Luis Massa finally created a winning cover for the Concept Science and Engineering Fair design contest.

The victory was no easy feat.

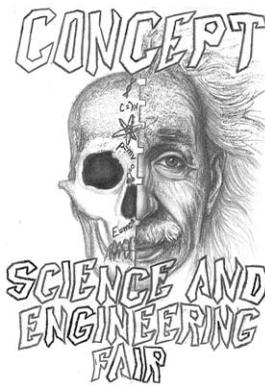
Two years ago, as an eighth-grade student, Luis came in third place. Last year, as a freshman, he fell to seventh place. Luis said he was starting to think his time and effort were being wasted.

He never gave up. In this year's contest, Luis' creation was chosen over about 400 others made by students in Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, Missouri and Wisconsin.

Still more impressive is that Luis only spent two class periods, 45 minutes each, working on it. In fact, thanks to a snow day that threatened his likelihood of meeting the contest's deadline, Luis said he was forced to rush.

The judges apparently didn't notice.

The fair is something that Horizon Lorain students participate in yearly. The goal is to display



ALEXIS DILL / CHRONICLE PHOTOS

Luis Massa's drawing is the winner of the 2017 CONSEF design contest. Luis is a sophomore at Horizon Science Academy of Lorain.

knowledge of science, technology, engineering and math while meeting students from other schools and sharing ideas. Each fair needs a cover design, which is where promising young artists like Luis come into play.

The contest required Massa to include the words "Concept Science & Engineering Fair" in his design and make a portrait, rather than a landscape.

Luckily for Luis, portraits are his strong suit. All he needed was some inspiration from his mother, an artist herself, to go along with the talent he already

had. The end result was a half-skull, half-Albert Einstein portrait.

Luis said his artistic genes come from his mother.

"Somehow her talent spread to me," he said with a smile.

He also gave credit to Claire Vien, the Horizon Lorain art teacher, saying she is great at what she does.

Luis draws every single day and hopes to go to college for art but doesn't have his sights set on any specific school just yet.

However, Assistant Principal Jayson Bendik said that Massa's talent isn't limited to art. He also is the captain of the school's var-

sity basketball team and maintains a 3.8 grade point average.

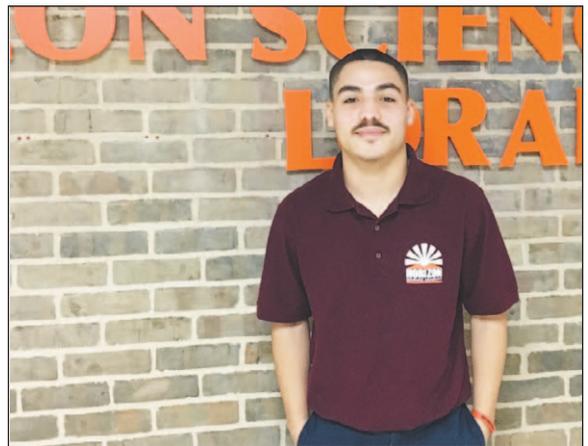
The top 10 designs from the contest will be on display at the fair at the Cleveland Convention Center in April. Additionally, Luis' design will be printed on program booklets and T-shirts.

He will receive a \$250 check during the CONSEF award ceremony.

Luis still is taking it all in.

"At first when I was told I won, I thought they were lying to me. It was crazy and a total relief moment," he said. "I truly am blessed."

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Horizon Science Academy sophomore Luis Massa.