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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

18 student projects in 2022-23 A.H. Nickless Innovation Award focus on a wide range of topics affecting the nation, world

Students from Bullock Creek, Freeland, Midland, Saginaw public school districts and Catholic Diocese of Saginaw participating in 10th annual STEM competition; in April, three teams will win a share of up to \$77,500 in STEM education grants for their schools and scholarships for their student team members

UNIVERSITY CENTER, MICH., February 22, 2023 – The 18 teams participating in the 2022-23 [A.H. Nickless Innovation Award](#) are in the home stretch of the competition, with their project reports due in late March and a day of live project presentations scheduled for Saturday, April 15, at Saginaw Valley State University.

Presented by the Nickless Family Charitable Foundation, the A.H. Nickless Innovation Award is an annual competition for high school students ages 13 to 18 in Bay, Midland, Saginaw and Tuscola counties. Its goal is to inspire passion for STEM subjects and challenge students to work in teams to think innovatively and develop solutions to problems impacting the world. Topics typically include – but are not limited to – issues related to alternative energy, healthcare, science, technology or life sciences.

The 18 team projects from the six participating schools are as follows:

Bullock Creek High School, Midland (Bullock Creek School District):

- Classroom desk that incorporates features to help protect against a shooting threat
- Generator solutions to help minimize problems associated with power outages

Freeland High School (Freeland Community School District):

- Reusable drink holder/carrier intended to eliminate the need for plastic rings
- Solutions for the prevention of falling ice on the Mackinac Bridge
- AI-powered personal companion with assistive technology to benefit the aging population

Herbert Henry Dow High School, Midland (Midland Public Schools):

- Small-scale carbon capture device to help fight climate change
- Device to detect stress to aid in its management, especially in adolescents
- Exploration of noninvasive, cost-efficient, accurate glucose-monitoring options



- Device to relieve and prevent repetitive-stress injuries of the hand, especially for those in computer science careers
- Mental health app to aid in productivity, positive relationship-building and emotional awareness for tweens and teens
- Robot to help provide certain hospital services to aid in patient care amid staffing shortages
- Underground farming for year-round plant growth

Midland High School (Midland Public Schools):

- Device that simulates a low-stimulus environment to prevent overstimulation in individuals with autism
- Digital catalog of books that will allow students to read any cataloged book at their specific reading level

Nouvel Catholic Central High School, Saginaw (Catholic Diocese of Saginaw):

- System that can detect whether a ball was in or out of bounds to aid in sports officiating
- System to improve school safety, including alerts, lockdown protocols and other measures
- Oxyhydrogen gas cell system designed to power the internal combustion engine of a boat

Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy (Saginaw Public School District):

- Virtual reality game/simulation to help children with autism develop social and communication skills

During Phase One of the competition in September and October, each team identified a problem and submitted a two-page proposal for a project to address it. Each team that advanced to Phase Two received a \$1,000 grant with which to conduct its research and develop a viable solution.

Now, teams must submit their Phase Two project reports by 4 p.m. EDT on March 31 and then will deliver 10-minute presentations on their projects before a panel of judges during a daylong public event on April 15 in [Alan W. Ott Auditorium in SVSU's Gilbertson Hall](#). Admission is free and open to the public. The exact start time for the event will be announced closer to April 15; watch the Newsroom page at ahninnovationaward.com for details.

At the conclusion of the April 15 event, up to \$42,500 in scholarships for students on the winning teams and \$35,000 in STEM education grants for the winning teams' schools will be awarded:

- **First place** will receive up to five **\$5,000 scholarships** for student team members and a **\$20,000 grant** for the school.
- **Second place** will receive up to five **\$2,500 scholarships** for student team members and a **\$10,000 grant** for the school.



- **Third place** will receive up to five **\$1,000 scholarships** for student team members and a **\$5,000 grant** for the school.

Celebrating 10 years of student innovation

The 2022-23 competition marks the 10th year of the A.H. Nickless Innovation Award. Since the first competition in 2013-14, well over a half-million dollars has been awarded to participants and their schools, including \$302,500 in student scholarships and \$280,000 in STEM education grants, respectively. In the competition's first nine years, 419 students developed and presented a total of 136 team projects in Phase Two of the competition, and 46 students have gone on to compete more than once. While there was not a competition in 2020-21 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Nickless Family Charitable Foundation distributed \$16,500 in scholarships to 11 past participants who were unable to compete during their senior year due to the cancellation.

Registration for the 11th annual competition, which will span the 2023-24 academic year, begins Sept. 1 on the Register page at ahninnovationaward.com.

About the A.H. Nickless Innovation Award

The A.H. Nickless Innovation Award was created by the Nickless Family Charitable Foundation to honor the memory of the late Arthur H. Nickless, a local innovator and owner of Wolverine Telephone Company. With a goal of inspiring passion for science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), the competition is open to high school students in Bay, Midland, Saginaw and Tuscola counties and awards up to \$77,500 per year in scholarships to students and STEM grants to schools. A total of \$582,500 has been awarded since the first competition in 2013-14. For more information, visit ahninnovationaward.com.