



MEDIA CONTACT:

Michael Lazorchak

AGP & Associates, Inc.

Phone: 989-839-5800

m.lazorchak@agp-inc.com

NOTE TO EDITORS: The April 22, 2017, competition event date listed in this news release represents a change to previously announced information. To allow the judges additional time to review the abstracts during Phase One due to the large number of entries, the competition timeline was extended and the event date was moved from April 8 to April 22.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**TOP 20 TEAMS SELECTED TO ADVANCE IN FOURTH ANNUAL
A.H. NICKLESS INNOVATION AWARD COMPETITION**

Record-high registration included 65 teams representing 10 schools

UNIVERSITY CENTER, MICH., Dec. 1, 2016 – Following a two-month registration period that yielded the highest-ever participation in the competition's four-year history, judges for the [A.H. Nickless Innovation Award](#) have selected the teams that will spend the next several months carrying out the problem-solving research they proposed during Phase One of the competition.

For Phase One, each registered team was required to submit a two-page description of its proposed project. A panel of judges representing the local business and scientific community was tasked with narrowing the field to 20 teams to move on to Phase Two. Each of these teams will receive a \$1,000 grant with which to conduct its research.

The competition will culminate in a daylong public event on Saturday, April 22, 2017, at Saginaw Valley State University, where the Phase Two teams will present their respective projects. Three winning teams will be announced at the conclusion of the event, taking home a share of up to \$77,500 in scholarships for students and science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education grants for schools.

Schools with teams selected to advance to Phase Two of the competition are:

- Bullock Creek High School, Midland, one team
- Freeland High School, Freeland, three teams
- Herbert Henry Dow High School, Midland, one team
- John Glenn High School, Bay City, six teams
- Midland High School, Midland, three teams
- Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy, Saginaw, six teams



“It is just incredible to us that so many teams representing so many different schools took the time to register this year – almost double our previous high number of 33 teams last year,” said Janet Royce, who, with her sisters, Joanie Tankersley and Judy Graham, created the award in memory of their late father, Arthur H. Nickless. “When we started this competition several years ago, it was our hope that it would one day reach a point where we could truly sense that the Great Lakes Bay Region and Thumb communities have embraced the concept and are excited for the opportunity to sharpen and showcase students’ STEM skills. It certainly feels like we are reaching that goal.”

The award, presented by the Nickless Family Charitable Foundation, 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 in areas such as alternative energy, health care, science, technology and life sciences.

First place receives up to five **\$5,000 scholarships** for student team members and a **\$20,000 STEM education grant** for the school; **second place** receives up to five **\$2,500 scholarships** for student team members and a **\$10,000 STEM education grant** for the school; and **third place** receives up to five **\$1,000 scholarships** for student team members and a **\$5,000 STEM education grant** for the school.

Nearly \$220,000 was awarded in the competition’s first three years.

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. For more information, visit ahninnovationaward.com.

Facebook: facebook.com/AHNicklessInnovationAward

Twitter: twitter.com/AHNInnovation

Instagram: instagram.com/AHNInnovation