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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

Phase One registration included 38 teams representing six schools.

UNIVERSITY CENTER, MICH., November 29, 2017 – Following a two-month registration period that netted an applicant pool of nearly 40 teams, 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 event on Saturday, April 21, 2018, 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, with each 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, six teams
- **Freeland High School**, three teams
- **Herbert Henry Dow High School**, Midland, three teams
- **Midland High School**, four teams
- **Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy**, one team
- **Saginaw Career Complex**, three teams

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.

A total of approximately \$290,000 in scholarships and grants was awarded in the competition's first four 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 or facebook.com/AHNicklessInnovationAward.