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*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

**Registration closing Oct. 31 for sixth annual A.H. Nickless Innovation Award Competition**

***Up to \$77,500 in prizes to be awarded to top three local teams and their schools***

**UNIVERSITY CENTER, MICH., Oct. 17, 2018** – Registration for the sixth annual A.H. Nickless Innovation Award – a competition that awarded \$362,000 in scholarships and technology grants to local students and schools in its first five years – will close at month's end.

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 science, technology, engineering and math (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.

Registration for Phase One of the competition ends at 4 p.m. Oct. 31. Prospective participants can find more information about the competition, read the rules and regulations, and register online at [ahninnovationaward.com](http://ahninnovationaward.com).

During Phase One, each team is required to submit a two-page description of its proposed project. In late November, a panel of regional experts will choose 20 projects to continue in the competition; each of those teams will be granted \$1,000 to develop their projects during Phase Two, which lasts until the March 15, 2019, submission deadline. On Saturday, April 6, 2019, teams will present their projects during a daylong public event at Saginaw Valley State University.

Members of the three winning teams will receive scholarships, and each of those teams' schools will win a STEM education grant. Available prizes total \$77,500 annually and are awarded as follows:

- **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
- **Third place** receives up to five **\$1,000 scholarships** for student team members and a **\$5,000 STEM education grant** for the school



### **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](http://ahninnovationaward.com).