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*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

**Top 20 teams selected to advance in sixth annual A.H. Nickless Innovation Award competition**

*Phase One registration included more than 40 teams representing 7 schools*

**UNIVERSITY CENTER, MICH., December 3, 2018** – Following a two-month registration period that netted an applicant pool of 42 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 public event on Saturday, April 6, 2019, 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:

- **Bay-Arenac ISD Career Center**, Bay City, one team
- **Bullock Creek High School**, Midland, five teams
- **Freeland High School**, three teams
- **Herbert Henry Dow High School**, Midland, two teams
- **Midland High School**, six teams
- **Saginaw Arts & Sciences Academy**, two teams
- **Saginaw Career Complex**, one team

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 \$362,000 in scholarships and grants was awarded in the competition's first five years.

### **About the A.H. Nickless Innovation Award**

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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).