MEDIA CONTACT: **Dan Attenberger**
AGP & Associates, Inc.
Phone: 989-839-5800
att@agp-inc.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local students, schools win $70K in scholarships, STEM grants in sixth annual A.H. Nickless Innovation Award competition

Six-year total of scholarships, grants awarded reaches $432,000

UNIVERSITY CENTER, MICH., April 9, 2019 – A total of 15 teams of students representing seven local schools presented months of research and hard work over the weekend in an annual competition that promotes innovation and creative thinking among high school students in the Great Lakes Bay Region.

Following the finale event for the sixth annual A.H. Nickless Innovation Award competition – which took place April 6 at Saginaw Valley State University's Alan W. Ott Auditorium – three teams of students went home with a total of $35,000 in scholarships for themselves and another $35,000 in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) grants for their sponsoring schools. Each winning team also receives a custom plaque.

Winning teams were:

- **First place:** Chemic Portal, Midland High School
  Prizes: $5,000 scholarship per team member and a $20,000 STEM grant for the school
- **Second place:** Falcon Water Solutions, Freeland High School
  Prizes: $2,500 scholarship per team member and a $10,000 STEM grant for the school
- **Third place:** CycleSafety, Midland High School
  Prizes: $1,000 scholarship per team member and a $5,000 STEM grant for the school

Other schools represented in the top 15 teams included the Bay-Arenac ISD Career Center in Bay City, Bullock Creek High School in Midland, Herbert Henry Dow High School in Midland, Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy, and the Saginaw Career Complex.

Additional information regarding the top three 2018-19 teams and their projects follows.

First place: Chemic Portal, Midland High School
Team Leader Olivia Johnson and team members Hannah Sawicki, Jared Gonder and Ian Sandford, coached by Robert Fox, created a reminder system designed to give individuals with disabilities more independence. The system's goals are to allow parents to create reminders for their dependents, to display reminders visually and automatically in an obvious way, and to provide a way for parents to know that their dependent has seen the reminder.

"For our team, this issue is personal. Two of us have siblings with disabilities (who) struggle with independence," the team members wrote in their project abstract. "Their independence is a major concern for our parents. More than anything, they want our siblings to reach the full potential of their lives. Through this project, we strive to help our siblings live their best independent life."

In addition to the scholarships, grant and plaque, the first-place team members took home a 3D-printed traveling trophy to showcase at their school for the next year. Their names will be permanently engraved on the trophy.

Second place: Falcon Water Solutions, Freeland High School
Team Leader Liam Pan and team members James Wayne, Hana Pan and Raegan Schalau, coached by Thomas Short, created a portable water testing platform to check bodies of water for nutrient pollution.

Third place: CycleSafety, Midland High School
Team Leader John White and team members Nathan Streitmatter, Carlie Servinski, Misa Halphen and Aidan Wilber-Gauthier, coached by Robert Fox, created the Cyclist Traffic Sensor (CTS), a sensor and alert system to heighten cyclists' awareness of hazards.

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.