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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Top 15 teams represent six area schools in ninth annual A.H. Nickless Innovation Award competition

UNIVERSITY CENTER, MICH., November 10, 2021 – Following a two-month registration period, organizers of the [A.H. Nickless Innovation Award](#) have announced the 15 teams that will spend the next several months conducting research and developing detailed plans to address the problem they identified during Phase One of the competition.

Aimed at inspiring passion for science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) subjects and challenging students to work in teams to think innovatively and develop solutions to problems impacting the world, the award is an annual competition for high school students ages 13 to 18 in Bay, Midland, Saginaw and Tuscola counties. Topics typically include – but are not limited to – issues related to alternative energy, healthcare, science, technology or life sciences.

For Phase One of the competition, each registered team was required to identify a problem and submit a two-page description of its proposed project. Each team now moving on to Phase Two of the competition receives a \$1,000 grant with which to conduct its research and develop a viable solution.

The competition – which is presented by the [Nickless Family Charitable Foundation](#) – will culminate in a daylong public event on Saturday, April 23, 2022, 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 STEM education grants for schools.

Schools with teams advancing to Phase Two of the competition are:

- **Bullock Creek High School** in Midland, eight teams
- **Freeland High School**, two teams
- **Herbert Henry Dow High School** in Midland, two teams
- **Midland High School**, one team
- **Reese High School**, one team
- **Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy**, one team



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 **nearly \$520,000** in scholarships and grants was awarded in the competition's first eight years. This includes \$16,500 in scholarships awarded in fall 2020 to 11 past competitors who had competed as juniors in 2019-20, were not on one of the top three teams and were unable to compete during their senior year when the competition was canceled for 2020-21 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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.