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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HIGH SCHOOL INNOVATION COMPETITION ANNOUNCED; MORE THAN \$75,000 IN PRIZES AVAILABLE ANNUALLY

UNIVERSITY CENTER, MICH., June 20, 2013 – A new award competition for local high school students was announced today during the Great Lakes Bay Summer Leadership Academy 2013.

The A.H. Nickless Innovation 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. The goal of the competition is to inspire passion for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) among high school students in the Great Lakes Bay Region. Students will be challenged to increase their STEM skills and knowledge by working in teams to think innovatively and build solutions to solve problems impacting the world today and into the future.

The award was created in memory of the late Arthur H. Nickless of Bay City. Nickless spent more than 40 years in the communications industry as the owner of Wolverine Telephone Company and remained passionate about innovation and technology throughout his life.

“We are excited to launch this award to honor our father’s legacy,” said Janet Royce, who, with her sisters, Joanie Tankersley and Judy Graham, created the award and serves on the board of the Nickless Family Charitable Foundation. “We hope to inspire young people in the area to think creatively, connect with local businesses, and spur educational advancement and economic growth.”

The prizes available to students and schools will total more than \$75,000 annually. Each member of the first-, second- and third-place teams will win a scholarship, and each of the winning teams’ schools will win a STEM education improvement grant.

“The awards from this competition will help improve both students’ futures and the quality of STEM education in our local schools,” Royce said. “We are hoping to shape the future business leaders of the Great Lakes Bay Region.”



Registration opens in September, when interested teams of students will submit a two-page project description detailing their innovative project ideas. The top 20 projects will be chosen to continue in the competition, and those teams will each receive \$1,000 to develop their respective projects. The projects will be presented and prizes will be awarded in April 2014.

“Our father was such a generous man,” Tankersley said. “He would be thrilled to know that students are being given the opportunity to expand their horizons through their own ingenuity and creative efforts.”

For more information about the A.H. Nickless Innovation Award and the Nickless Family Charitable Foundation, visit www.facebook.com/AHNicklessInnovationAward.

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 will award up to \$77,500 per year in scholarships to students and STEM grants to schools. For more information, visit www.ahninnovationaward.org or www.facebook.com/AHNicklessInnovationAward.