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*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

**Six schools in Freeland, Midland, Saginaw represented in top 18 teams for 2022-23 A.H. Nickless Innovation Award**

***Up to \$77.5K in scholarships for students, STEM education grants for schools at stake in 10th annual competition***

**UNIVERSITY CENTER, MICH., Nov. 2, 2022** – Following a nearly two-month registration period, organizers of the [A.H. Nickless Innovation Award](#) have announced the 18 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 affecting 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 teams' project reports are due March 31, 2023.

The competition – which is presented by the [Nickless Family Charitable Foundation](#) – will culminate in a daylong public event on Saturday, April 15, 2023, 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 (Bullock Creek School District), **two teams**
- **Freeland High School** (Freeland Community School District), **three teams**
- **Herbert Henry Dow High School** in Midland (Midland Public Schools), **seven teams**
- **Midland High School** (Midland Public Schools), **two teams**
- **Nouvel Catholic Central High School** in Saginaw (Diocese of Saginaw), **three teams**
- **Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy** (Saginaw Public School District), **one team**



**First place** will receive up to five **\$5,000 scholarships** for student team members and a **\$20,000 STEM education grant** for the school; **second place** will receive up to five **\$2,500 scholarships** for student team members and a **\$10,000 STEM education grant** for the school; and **third place** will receive up to five **\$1,000 scholarships** for student team members and a **\$5,000 STEM education grant** for the school.

### **Celebrating 10 years of student innovation**

The 2022-23 competition marks the 10th year of the A.H. Nickless Innovation Award. Since the first competition in 2013-14, well over a half-million dollars has been awarded to participants and their schools, including \$302,500 in student scholarships and \$280,000 in STEM education grants, respectively. In all, 419 students have developed and presented a total of 136 team projects in Phase Two of the competition, and 46 students have gone on to compete more than once. While there was not a competition in 2020-21 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Nickless Family Charitable Foundation distributed \$16,500 in scholarships to 11 past participants who were unable to compete during their senior year due to the cancellation.

### **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. A total of \$582,500 has been awarded since the first competition in 2013-14. For more information, visit [ahninnovationaward.com](http://ahninnovationaward.com).