



**MEDIA CONTACT:**

**Dan Attenberger**

AGP & Associates, Inc.

Phone: 989-839-5800

[att@agp-inc.com](mailto:att@agp-inc.com)

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

**Registration closes Oct. 28 for 10th annual A.H. Nickless  
Innovation Award competition**

***Up to \$77,500 in prizes to be awarded to top three local teams and their schools***

**UNIVERSITY CENTER, MICH., Oct. 14, 2022** – Registration for the 10th annual A.H. Nickless Innovation Award – a competition that awarded more than \$580,000 in scholarships and grants to local students and high schools in its first nine years – will close at month's end.

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.

Registration for Phase One of the competition ends at 4 p.m. EDT Oct. 28. Prospective participants can find more information about the competition, read the rules and regulations, and register online at [ahninnovationaward.com](http://ahninnovationaward.com).

During Phase One, each team is required to identify a problem and submit a two-page description of its proposed project. By late November, a panel of regional experts will choose up to 20 teams to continue in the competition; each of those teams will be granted \$1,000 with which to conduct its research and develop a viable solution during Phase Two, which lasts until the March 31, 2023, project submission deadline. On Saturday, April 15, 2023, the teams will present their projects during a daylong public event at Saginaw Valley State University.

Members of the three winning teams will receive scholarships, and each of those teams' schools will win a STEM education grant. Available prizes total \$77,500 annually and are awarded as follows:

- **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.



- **Third place** receives up to five **\$1,000 scholarships** for student team members and a **\$5,000 STEM education grant** for the school.

### **2021-22 competition recap**

[For 2021-22, the three winning teams took home a combined total of \\$64,000 in scholarships for student team members and STEM education grants for their schools:](#)

- **First place** went to Virtual Motion Therapy (previously known as Rennason) from **Midland High School**, which developed a virtual reality program as a gamified form of physical therapy intended to address obstacles Parkinson's Disease patients face when seeking treatment.
- In **second place** was Co-Sign from **Freeland High School**, which created a mobile app to reduce communication barriers between the hearing-impaired and hearing by translating sign language to text/speech and vice-versa.
- **Third place** was awarded to RipTide Dragons from **Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy**, which created a system to record currents, tides, UV index and temperature at beaches to help prevent drownings and melanoma.

### **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**

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)