



MEDIA CONTACT:

Alisha Toyzan

AGP & Associates, Inc.

Phone: 989-839-5800

alisha.toyzan@agp-inc.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TEAMS CHOSEN TO RECEIVE \$1,000 GRANTS, MOVE ON TO PHASE II OF HIGH SCHOOL INNOVATION COMPETITION

UNIVERSITY CENTER, MICH., Nov. 25, 2013 – Judges for the A.H. Nickless Innovation Award have chosen the 20 teams that will move on to Phase II of the competition, with each team receiving a \$1,000 grant to develop its proposed project.

More than 30 teams from the Great Lakes Bay Region submitted project abstracts summarizing how their ideas were innovative and could work in the real world. Projects were required to fit into one of the following categories: energy and the environment, medicine and health services, engineering, or science and technology.

The competition, presented by the Nickless Family Charitable Foundation, is a new annual award for high school students ages 13 to 18 in Bay, Midland, Saginaw and Tuscola counties that promotes innovation and creative thinking. The panel of judges consisted of local professionals in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) industries.

“We were impressed with the amount and quality of submissions for the first year of the A.H. Nickless Innovation Award,” said Joanie Tankersley, who, with her sisters, Judy Graham and Janet Royce, created the award in memory of their father, Arthur H. Nickless. “The innovation and drive of students from the Great Lakes Bay Region was evident in each abstract.”

Schools represented in the top 20 teams include John Glenn High School (Bay City), Midland High School, H.H. Dow High School (Midland), Heritage High School (Saginaw), the Saginaw Career Complex, Frankenmuth High School, the Bay-Arenac ISD Career Center (Bay City) and Bay City Western High School. Topics to be explored will include watershed contamination, the conservation of white and green ash trees, renewable energy, and the prevention of texting while driving.

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 three winning teams’ schools will win a STEM education improvement grant.



The goal of the competition is to inspire passion for STEM subjects and challenge students to work in teams to think innovatively and build solutions to solve problems impacting the world today and into the future in areas such as alternative energy, health care, science, technology and life sciences.

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.com or www.facebook.com/AHNicklessInnovationAward.