



Believe in Ohio

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STEM & Entrepreneurship Scholars earned \$274,000 in Scholarships During an Online Believe in Ohio – State Competition

Dublin, Ohio – Funded by the State of Ohio through the Department of Higher Education and operated as a program of **The Ohio Academy of Science**, **Believe in Ohio** is a STEM and entrepreneurship program that teaches students how to commercialize products and services and create business plans that are driven by innovation.

A total of 31 STEM Commercialization and STEM Business Plans were awarded with \$274,000 in scholarships at the Believe in Ohio State Competition. These scholarships can only be used to attend an Ohio college, university, or technical college. In 2021, the Believe in Ohio program awarded more than \$400,000 scholarships in total.

“This year’s projects were not only amazing, but also very inspiring”, said Michael E. Woytek, Executive Director for The Ohio Academy of Science. Woytek went on to add, “the Believe in Ohio program provides students with a vision of what’s possible as it broadens and builds critical skills needed to compete in today’s economy. It also provides them with a sense of purpose for pursuing post-secondary opportunities, here in Ohio”.

Believe in Ohio is a free, comprehensive, curriculum-based, STEM and entrepreneurship program for Ohio high school students. The program is designed to create a “Culture of Innovation” and to prepare students to meet the demands of a rapidly changing labor market and become contributors to Ohio’s innovation economy. Believe in Ohio is a program of [The Ohio Academy of Science](#) and was collaboratively developed with [Entrepreneurial Engagement Ohio](#). For more information about Believe in Ohio, please visit www.believeinohio.org.

The Believe in Ohio State Competition plans include:

School Name and City, Type of Plan, Student Name(s) and Grade(s), Plan Title, Award

Bio-Med Science Academy STEM School - Rootstown

Individual **Ms. Autumn Margaret Nicole Groen, 12**
Plan Title: *Carnauba Wax Food Wrap*
Award: STEM Commercialization Plan \$10,000 Scholarship

Individual **Mr. Tage G Mahle, 12**
Plan Title: *Epoxy Scaleable*
Award: STEM Commercialization Plan \$10,000 Scholarship

Individual **Ms. Rayleigh Stafinsky, 12**
Plan Title: *Stackable Puzzle Storage System*
Award: STEM Commercialization Plan \$10,000 Scholarship

Blanchester High School - Blanchester

Individual **Ms. Grace Danielle Irwin, 11**
Plan Title: *Interstitial Fluid Microneedle Sensor Patch Incorporating Nanoparticles for Monitoring Opioid Use.*
Award: STEM Commercialization Plan \$10,000 Scholarship

Individual **Mr. Carter Anthony Stevens, 12**
Plan Title: *Bone Regenerative Injection*
Award: STEM Commercialization Plan 1st Alternate

Brecksville-Broadview Hts HS- Broadview Hts

Individual **Mr. Lucas Andrew Kirin, 12**
Plan Title: *Handheld Power Tool Guidance System*
Award: STEM Business Plan \$10,000 Scholarship

Team **Mr. Zachary Bryan Zywiec, 10 and Mr. Jacob Bryan Zywiec, 12**
Plan Title: *myFit, the Virtual Try-On and Fitting Clothing Experience*
Award: STEM Business Plan \$10,000 Scholarship

Canfield High School - Canfield

Individual **Ms. Emma Dodig-Drahotusky, 11**
Plan Title: *Naturally Occuring Antiviral Agents for Use on Cell Phones*
Award: STEM Commercialization Plan \$10,000 Scholarship

Team **Ms. Morgan E Carey, 12, Ms. Madison R Puskar, 12, and Ms. Marisa F Scheetz, 12**
Plan Title: *Neutralized Dog Waste Solution*
Award: STEM Commercialization Plan \$10,000 Scholarship

Carroll High School - Dayton

Individual **Mr. Kevin Samuel Agnew, 12**
Plan Title: *LED Pacing System for Runners*
Award: STEM Commercialization Plan \$10,000 Scholarship

Columbus Academy - Gahanna

Team **Mr. Soham Joshi, 11 and Mr. Raaghav Malik, 11**

Plan Title: *S.E.N.S.E: A Multipurpose Robotic Glove Designed to Teach Sign Language through Guided Manual Motions*

Award: STEM Business Plan \$10,000 Scholarship

Hilliard Darby High School - Hilliard

Individual **Mr. Anas Muhammad Mereb, 9**

Plan Title: *Bio Inspired & Smart Blade Designs for more Efficient and Resilient Small Wind Turbines*

Award: STEM Commercialization Plan \$10,000 Scholarship

Jackson High School - Massillon

Individual **Ms. Snehal Choudhury, 11**

Plan Title: *Creating an Alcohol-Free, Essential Oil-Based Sanitizer for Better Hand Hygiene*

Award: STEM Commercialization Plan \$10,000 Scholarship

Lutheran West School - Rocky River

Individual **Ms. Acacia Allison Uechi, 12**

Plan Title: *Citrus Clothing Company*

Award: STEM Business Plan \$10,000 Scholarship

Milton Union High School - West Milton

Individual **Ms. Alyssa Layne Smith, 11**

Plan Title: *SwingMax*

Award: STEM Business Plan \$10,000 Scholarship

Individual **Ms. Madison Elizabeth-Ming Stasiak, 11**

Plan Title: *The Bottle-Attachment with Suction Equipment (BASE), a Universal Non-Tipping Cup Holder to Keep Bottles Upright*

Award: STEM Business Plan \$10,000 Scholarship

Notre-Dame Cathedral Latin School - Chardon

Team **Mr. Zach DeRespiris, 12, Mr. Evan Fonash, 12, and Mr. Mario Misiti, 12**

Plan Title: *Aerobic Success Enhancement Mask (ASEM)*

Award: STEM Commercialization Plan \$10,000 Scholarship

Team **Mr. John Cesen, 11, Mr. Vincent Mickey, 11, and Mr. Brandon Preseren, 11**

Plan Title: *The Cleanstrument*

Award: STEM Commercialization Plan \$10,000 Scholarship

Team **Ms. Abby Bouton, 11, Ms. Liz Brey, 11, and Ms. Cailin Hyslop, 11**

Plan Title: *Misting Hand Sanitizer Station (EMAW-Station)*

Award: STEM Business Plan 1st Alternate

Team **Ms. Zoe Allison, 11, Ms. Vivian Ha, 11, and Ms. Kaitlin Tabernik, 11**

Plan Title: *Wi-Fi Signal Recognition Tracker (WSRT)*

Award: STEM Commercialization Plan 2nd Alternate

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Olmsted Falls High School - Olmsted

Individual **Mr. Galvin J Morgan, 11**

Plan Title: *Wellworks Water*

Award: STEM Business Plan 2nd Alternate

Rutherford B Hayes High School - Delaware

Team **Ms. Caylee Bree Combs, 12 and Ms. Brynn Eleanora McGrail, 12**

Plan Title: *Creating a Sustainable Cycle with a Duckweed-Based Fertilizer*

Award: STEM Commercialization Plan \$10,000 Scholarship

Upper Arlington High School - Upper Arlington

Individual **Mr. Malachi Gallo Son, 11**

Plan Title: *Intercept*

Award: STEM Business Plan \$10,000 Scholarship

Individual **Mr. Mihai Crisan, 11**

Plan Title: *Development of a photonic integrated circuit (PIC) that outperforms current ubiquitous integrated circuits*

Award: STEM Commercialization Plan \$10,000 Scholarship

Individual **Mr. Benjamin Maximus Son, 10**

Plan Title: *Receiver Protector*

Award: STEM Commercialization Plan \$10,000 Scholarship

VanWert HS - Van Wert

Team **Mr. Andrew Li, 12 and Ms. Sophie Grace Rutkowski, 12**

Plan Title: *Massaging Biometric Compression Sleeve*

Award: STEM Commercialization Plan \$10,000 Scholarship

Team **Mr. Zachariah Andrew Mason, 12 and Mr. Octavius Malichi Tucker, 12**

Plan Title: *The Big Rig Trash Compactor*

Award: STEM Commercialization Plan \$10,000 Scholarship

West Geauga High School - Chesterland

Individual **Mr. Bryn Patterson Morgan, 10**

Plan Title: *Improved Spatial Positioning System Pt. 2*

Award: STEM Commercialization Plan \$10,000 Scholarship

Westlake High School - Westlake

Individual **Ms. Michelle Khoury, 12**

Plan Title: *Water Weighers*

Award: STEM Business Plan \$10,000 Scholarship

Individual **Mr. Jacob Mathew Rintamaki, 11**

Plan Title: *The Transformable Tent: A Novel Design to Aid Humanitarian Relief Efforts*

Award: STEM Business Plan \$10,000 Scholarship

William Mason High School - Mason

Individual **Mr. Emir Tali, 10**

Plan Title: *Portable Solar Tracker*

Award: STEM Commercialization Plan \$10,000 Scholarship

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