



# Believe in Ohio

## News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## STEM & Entrepreneurship Scholars earned \$26,000 in Scholarships During an Online Believe in Ohio – Qualifying 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.

Recently, students from 7 high schools throughout Ohio competed in the first of two Qualifying Competitions for the opportunity to advance to the 2022 Believe in Ohio State Competition. Student projects are developed and then evaluated either as a STEM Commercialization Plan or a STEM Business Plan. The next Qualifying Competition will be held in June and the Believe in Ohio State Competition will take place later that same month. Students at the state competition will compete for up to \$375,000 in total scholarship awards.

“STEM is the driver for innovation and when combined with entrepreneurship, it becomes a powerful combination that drives the creation for new products and services, and builds new industries”, said Michael E. Woytek, Executive Director for The Ohio Academy of Science. Woytek went on to add, “these students are the future professionals needed to propel Ohio’s innovation economy”.

Each of the students advancing from the Qualifying Competition will receive a \$1,000 scholarship to attend any Ohio college, university, or technical college and the opportunity to compete for a \$5,000 or \$10,000 scholarship (per plan) at the State Competition.

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](http://www.believeinohio.org).

## Believe in Ohio Qualifying Competition – Page 2

The Believe in Ohio Qualifying Competition Scholars include:

### **Blanchester High School - Blanchester**

Ainsley Blake Whitaker, 11 - Individual  
Plan Title: *Electro-Sensors and Cutoff Valves for Toxic Carbon Monoxide Emissions from Motor Vehicles*

Kaylin Marie Dotson, 11 - Individual  
Plan Title: *Rehab Watch*

Kaylie Rachel Paugh, 11 - Individual  
Plan Title: *Stem Cell Implantation in the Auditory Complex*

Emma Charlotte Falgner, 11 - Individual  
Plan Title: *Thermo Smart Blanket: Temperature Regulated Sleep Tracking Blanket*

Leah Grace Boegeman, 11 - Individual  
Plan Title: *Vivid-Corrective Contacts*

### **Chagrin Falls High School - Chagrin Falls**

John P Goss, 12 - Individual  
Plan Title: *5.56 Electric Ballistic Cartridge*

### **NIHF STEM HS - Akron**

Noah Christopher Klein, 12 - Individual  
Plan Title: *Android Application to Encourage Internships*

Maddox M Graham, 12 - Individual  
Plan Title: *BetterBee Kit*

Autumn Marie Wright, 12 - Individual  
Plan Title: *Body Positivity in Students Instagram Template*

Brendan King, 12 - Individual  
Plan Title: *Button Lock*

Skylar A Bittner, 12 - Individual  
Plan Title: *Creating an app to assist in food security*

Eleanor Diane Smith, 12 - Individual  
Plan Title: *Eleanor's Garden for Good*

### **NIHF STEM HS – Akron con't.**

Christopher Anderson, 12 - Individual  
Plan Title: *GIS Maps for Public Technology*

Charles Noah Murphy, 12 - Individual  
Plan Title: *ListTD: The Better To-Do List*

Jailah Truitt, 12 - Individual  
Plan Title: *Resilient*

Nikolai Christopher Radonjich, 12 - Individual  
Plan Title: *Weightless Workout Equipment for Beginners*

### **Revere HS - Richfield**

Elise Jakab, 12 and Anna Freeman, 12 - Team  
Plan Title: *Hooks for Hoodies*

Lola Grace Downing, 9 and Sierra Hailey White, 9 - Individual  
Plan Title: *QuickFlip Lacrosse Stick*

### **Upper Arlington High School - Upper Arlington**

Mihai Crisan, 12 - Individual  
Plan Title: *Development of a Generic Programmable Nanophotonic Processor using Programmable Photonic Integrated Circuits (PPICs) that Outperforms Current Ubiquitous Integrated Circuits (ICs)*

### **Westlake High School - Westlake**

John Kilroy, 12 and Mahdi Hussein, 9 - Team  
Plan Title: *Quit Stick*

### **William Mason High School - Mason**

Laasya Acharya, 9 - Individual  
Plan Title: *Ceres: A Smart Device Utilizing Neural Networks to Detect Fruit Diseases Using Imaging*

Janu Gadthula, 11 and Tanya Keskar, 11 - Team  
Plan Title: *Clean Energy with an Affordable Hydrogen Fuel Cell*

**END**