



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STEM & Entrepreneurship Scholars earned Scholarships and Awards During the Ohio STEP – State Competition

Dublin, Ohio – Ohio Science, Technology, and Entrepreneurship Program (Ohio STEP) is a STEM innovation and entrepreneurship program of the Ohio Academy of Science. This program is designed to promote critical thinking and the development of an entrepreneurial mindset through experiential and project-based learning. Authentic research projects prepare students to meet the demands of a rapidly changing labor market where technology and innovation create new challenges, as well as new and rewarding opportunities.

Ohio STEP is an iterative process that involves both an understanding of STEM research and how it can be applied to develop a solution (product or service) along with an entrepreneurial evaluation of the business model to analyze the likelihood of entrepreneurial success.

Ohio STEP is open to Middle School students in grades 6-8 and High School students in grades 9-12. Students may participate as independent students, as part of a school affiliated classroom or club, or a community club. They can develop projects individually or in teams of up to three (3) members

Scholarships and awards totaling over \$21,000 were awarded to 17 plans. The scholarships can only be used to attend an Ohio college, university, or technical college. A total of 109 plans comprised of 148 students competed in the Virtual State Competition.

“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, “We are *Creating a Culture of Innovation*™ with Ohio STEP as it 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”.

Ohio STEP is a free, comprehensive, curriculum-based, STEM and entrepreneurship program for Ohio students. For more information about Ohio STEP, please visit www.ohiosci.org

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2025 Ohio STEP Awardees College Scholarships

The scholarships can only be used to attend an Ohio college, university, or technical college. Scholarships are divided equally among teammates.

STEM Business Plan and Pitch - Grades 9-12

\$2,000 Scholarship

Austin Ash

Hoover High School

Project: Lumo

Quinten McKinnon

Hoover High School

Project: Faith Unfolded LLC

Divyasree Paruchuri

Olentangy High School

Project: RespiraCheck: Pneumonia Detector

Dominic Shockey and Owen Timura

Olmsted Falls High School

Project: SafeCloud: Protecting Tomorrow, Today

\$1,000 Scholarship

Reagan Oney

Hoover High School

Project: Glide and Glow

Isabella Johnson

Hoover High School

Project: Radiant Reflect

Shane Mahaffey, Jonathan Evans, and Sam Sedlacek

Olmsted Falls High School

Project: Chore Trainer

Chase Donahue, Will Healey, and Tyler Krinjeck

Olmsted Falls High School

Project: Crashout: RearGuard

STEM Commercialization Plan and Pitch - Grades 9-12

\$2,000 Scholarship

Anuki Mudalige

Olentangy Orange High School

Project: NeuroBreath: An AI-Powered Wearable Device for Stress Reduction Using Mindfulness Techniques

Charlie Pochet and Paul Cook

Dayton Regional STEM School

Project: SAWOS: Drone Detection and Pilot

Awareness Systems

Shrividya Regadamilli

Hathaway Brown

Project: PreventionFirst

\$1,000 Scholarship

Matthew Paul

Worthington Christian School

Project: Squat Spot - an innovation in rehabilitation and training

Avery Carlisle, Brynn Munn, and Marija Vukovic

Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin

Project: Biodegradable and Reusable Hospital Gowns:

EcoGowns

Harman Kaur, Cora Dunekacke, and Bili Hame,

Dayton Regional STEM School

Project: ZeroSea

Summary Plans and Pitch Grades 6-8

Students will receive a cash award of \$25

Kathryn Oliver, Cornerstone Christian Academy, Project: Carpet Taps

Martin Nicasio Acosta & Lydia Jenks, Cornerstone Christian Academy. Project: Dog Cage Curtains

Collin Speidel & Paul Coumos, Cornerstone Christian Academy, Project: Automatic Light Switch

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