



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 \$4,075 were awarded to 10 plans. The scholarships can only be used to attend an Ohio college, university, or technical college. A total of 59 plans comprised of 103 students competed in the Virtual State Competition.

“The Ohio STEP program is incredibly aligned and perhaps the best suited example of career-connected learning”, 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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2026 Ohio STEP Awardees

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

STEM Business Plan and Pitch - Grades 9-12

1ST PLACE - \$1,500 SCHOLARSHIP

[Dominick Mahoney, Brayden Bosley, and Savino Capiccioni](#)

Olmsted Falls High School, Cuyahoga County
SOLAR SIPS

HONORABLE MENTION - \$200 CASH AWARD

[Nikita Kakade](#)

Dayton Regional STEM High School, Montgomery County
SELF-DRIVE AND THRIVE

STEM Commercialization Plan and Pitch - Grades 9-12

1ST PLACE - \$1,500 SCHOLARSHIP

[Ananya Desai](#)

Mason High School, Warren County
BLOODCONNECT OFFLINE:
A LOCAL-FIRST PLATFORM FOR RELIABLE, OFFLINE BLOOD DONOR COORDINATION

HONORABLE MENTION - \$200 CASH AWARD

[Ella Laneve and Samantha Gaspar](#)

Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin High School, Geauga County
SAFERSTOP

HONORABLE MENTION - \$200 CASH AWARD CONTINUED

[Lincoln Miller and Eva Krage](#)

Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin High School, Geauga County
THE SHOE FOR PROSTHETIC FEET: TRUEMOVE

[Zoey Myers and Mia Lignetta](#)

Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin High School, Geauga County
THE TABLET TO DISSOLVE PET HAIR OFF YOUR CLOTHES: FURFREE

[Austin Otero and Anthony Chamoun](#)

Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin High School, Geauga County
GLACIER GRIP - THE SKI STOPPING ME

Summary Plans and Pitch Grades 6-8

Students will receive a \$25 gift card

[Weston Carson](#), St. Rose School, Wood County, EXTRACTING HYDROGEN FROM WATER AS A FUEL SOURCE

[Maddox Aplin](#), St. Rose School, Wood County, SMART SLEEVE

[Neo Dave](#), The University School - Shaker Heights Campus, Cuyahoga County, HEAT RETAINING PERFORMANCE OF HOT LIQUID BOTTLES

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