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Believe in Ohio Triples Participation to Nearly 10,000 Students

Student STEM Commercialization & Business Plan Competition Now One of the Largest in the USA

Columbus (April 7, 2016) ... The Believe in Ohio (BiO) program today announced that the number of Ohio schools, teachers and students participating in its STEM Commercialization and Business Plans Competitions increased greatly during the 2015-2016 school year when compared to the prior year, with student participation more than tripling.

“We are pleased to report that the number of participating schools increased 73% from 83 to 144, the number of participating teachers more than doubled from 128 to 300, and the number of participating students more than tripled from 2,750 to nearly 10,000 students,” announced John Klipfell, Believe in Ohio Co-Director. “With these increases, in only two years, the Believe in Ohio program has grown to be one of the largest, if not the largest, state-specific Commercialization/Business Plan Competition in the nation,” continued Klipfell.

Believe in Ohio is a program of The Ohio Academy of Science and Entrepreneurial Engagement Ohio that was developed and is managed collaboratively between the two non-profit organizations. Together, these two organizations are teaching students about the linkage between STEM (Science, Technology, Energy and Math) and entrepreneurship, which traditionally have been viewed as separate disciplines. These disciplines are the key elements to foster innovation and job creation in the 21st Century. The Believe in Ohio program was developed with the support of the Ohio Department of Higher Education and funded by the 130th Ohio General Assembly.

“More than 1,000 students from 90 Ohio high schools who successfully competed in their local high school plan competitions in March have earned the opportunity to enter Believe in Ohio’s Regional Competition. The best in the Regional Competition will then go on to compete for scholarships and awards to Ohio colleges and universities in Believe in Ohio’s State Competition on May 7, 2016,” said Stephen McConoughey, PhD, CEO of The Ohio Academy of Science and Believe in Ohio Co-Director. “Altogether, combined, more than \$800,000 in program grants, competition awards and scholarships are expected to be earned at the local and statewide level,” continued McConoughey.

The Believe in Ohio (BiO) program has three principal objectives:

- Help students understand the challenge & opportunity of the future and how to prepare for it through STEM Forums, and online courses about Ohio’s Innovation Economy.
- Help students understand the importance of a STEM education and the development of an entrepreneurial mindset through engagement with STEM and entrepreneurial experts and mentors, and participation in STEM Commercialization and Business Plan competitions.
- Inspire students to pursue their educations and careers in Ohio by introducing them to Ohio’s robust R&D and Innovation Economy, and by awarding scholarships to Ohio colleges and universities to the winners of its annual Statewide STEM Commercialization and STEM Business Plan Competition.

For more information, visit www.BelieveInOhio.org or call Believe in Ohio 614-914-5095.



About the Believe in Ohio program:

Believe in Ohio is a comprehensive, free program developed by The Ohio Academy of Science and Entrepreneurial Engagement Ohio with the support of the Ohio Department of Higher Education and the 130th Ohio General Assembly that helps students prepare for the future

The program helps prepare students to become “competitors” in Ohio's innovation economy and to be part of Ohio's next generation of innovators who will create the new product services and jobs of the future through the application of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Believe in Ohio's many programs and activities include:

1. **Regional STEM Commercialization and Entrepreneurship Forums** where High School and Middle School students interact with many of Ohio's leading STEM researchers and innovators. During the last two years, more than 4,000 students, teachers and guests attended one of 15 Forums held all across the State of Ohio.
2. **STEM Video Gallery** including more than fifty 20-25 minute presentations that introduce High School and Middle School students to Ohio's cutting edge research and development thought leaders.
3. **Six Regional Online Courses** that introduce Ohio's High School and Middle School students to Ohio's Innovation Economy.
4. **Local Competitions for student STEM Commercialization and STEM Business Plans.** (Note, High School and Middle School students compete in separate local competitions.)
5. **Statewide STEM Commercialization and STEM Business Plan Competitions** in which High School students are awarded hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarships to Ohio colleges and universities.
6. **Urban STEM Mentor Programs** providing inspirational role models and mentors for Ohio's urban youth.
7. **Professional Development and Resource Support Programs** for Ohio teachers.

For more information, visit the website at www.BelieveInOhio.org or call Believe in Ohio at 614-914-5095.

About The Ohio Academy of Science:

Since 1891, The Ohio Academy of Science has been promoting science and science education in Ohio as a membership based, volunteer-driven, not-for-profit organization. In addition to its pre-college student programs (Believe in Ohio, State Science Day, and Invention Convention), the Academy conducts an annual meeting which brings together scientists and students from all disciplines across the state and publishes an international, multidisciplinary, scientific journal. www.ohiosci.org

About Entrepreneurial Engagement Ohio:

Entrepreneurial Engagement Ohio (EEO) is a 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Corporation formed for the educational and charitable purpose of promoting student and community awareness as to the challenges and opportunities the changing regional, national and global economies present for the future; and providing educational instruction, curriculum, mentoring and other information that helps develop the entrepreneurial, economic, business, and scientific literacy of students and the community that will be needed for the 21st Century. www.EEOhio.org



Schools That Are Participating in the Believe in Ohio Program During the 2015-2016 School Year:

(Note: Schools highlighted in bold have students who are participating in Believe in Ohio’s Regional Competition.)

<u>County Name</u>	<u>School Name</u>	<u>City/Town</u>
Adams	Manchester High School	Manchester
Adams	Manchester Middle School	Manchester
Ashland	Loudonville High School	Loudonville
Ashtabula	Jefferson Area High School	Jefferson
Ashtabula	Wallace H. Braden Middle School	Ashtabula
Athens	Athens High School	The Plains
Auglaize	New Bremen Middle School	New Bremen
Auglaize	Wapakoneta High School	Wapakoneta
Brown	Eastern Brown High School	Winchester
Brown	Georgetown High School	Georgetown
Butler	Lakota East High School	Liberty Twp
Carroll	Carrollton High School	Carrollton
Carroll	Malvern High School	Malvern
Clark	Global Impact STEM Academy	Springfield
Clermont	Goshen High School	Goshen
Clermont	Goshen Middle School	Goshen
Clinton	Blanchester High School	Blanchester
Clinton	Clinton-Massie High School	Clarksville
Clinton	East Clinton High School	Sabina
Columbiana	Anderson Jr/Sr High School	Lisbon
Columbiana	Columbiana High School	Columbiana
Cuyahoga	Bedford High School	Bedford
Cuyahoga	Benedictine High School	Cleveland
Cuyahoga	Brecksville-Broadview Hts High School	Broadview Hts
Cuyahoga	Brecksville-Broadview Hts Middle School	Broadview Hts
Cuyahoga	Center Middle School	Strongsville
Cuyahoga	Chagrin Falls High School	Chagrin Falls
Cuyahoga	Chagrin Falls Middle School	Chagrin Falls
Cuyahoga	Cleveland School of Science & Medicine	Cleveland
Cuyahoga	Gilmour Academy	Gates Mills
Cuyahoga	Lutheran West High School	Rocky River
Cuyahoga	Maple Heights High School	Maple Heights
Cuyahoga	MC2STEM High School	Cleveland
Cuyahoga	Memorial Jr High School	S. Euclid
Cuyahoga	Menlo Park Academy	Cleveland
Cuyahoga	New Tech @ East Tech High School	Cleveland

Cuyahoga	Normandy High School	Parma
Cuyahoga	Olmsted Falls High School	Olmsted Falls
Cuyahoga	Orange High School	Pepper Pike
Cuyahoga	Parma Senior High School	Parma
Cuyahoga	St. Joseph Academy	Cleveland
Cuyahoga	Strongsville High School	Strongsville
Cuyahoga	University School	Hunting Valley
Cuyahoga	Valley Forge High School	Parma Hts
Cuyahoga	Westlake High School	Westlake
Cuyahoga	Yavna High School	Beachwood
Darke	Arcanum High School	Arcanum
Darke	Bradford High School	Bradford
Darke	Greenville Sr High School	Greenville
Darke	Tri-Village Jr/Sr High School	New Madison
Darke	Tri-Village Middle School	New Madison
Darke	Versailles High School	Versailles
Darke	Versailles Middle School	Versailles
Erie	Edison High School	Milan
Erie	Huron High School	Huron
Erie	Vermilion High School (8th grade)	Vermilion
Fairfield	Lancaster High School	Lancaster
Franklin	Gahanna Lincoln High School	Gahanna
Franklin	Groveport Madison High School	Groveport
Franklin	Horizon Science Academy High School	Columbus
Franklin	Thomas Worthington High School	Worthington
Geauga	Notre Dame - Cathedral Latin High School	Chardon
Geauga	West Geauga High School	Chesterland
Greene	Greene County Career Center	Xenia
Hamilton	Anderson High School	Cincinnati
Hamilton	Cincinnati State STEM Academy	Cincinnati
Highland	Bright ES	Hillsboro
Huron	Norwalk High School	Norwalk
Jackson	Jackson High School	Jackson
Jackson	Wellston High School	Wellston
Lake	Mentor High School	Mentor
Lake	Perry High School	Perry
Lake	Willoughby-Eastlake Career Academy	Willoughby
Logan	Benjamin Logan High School	Bellefontaine
Logan	Riverside High School	DeGraff
Lorain	Avon Lake High School	Avon Lake
Lorain	Horizon Science Academy Lorain	Lorain
Lorain	LCCC Early College High School	Elyria
Lucas	Bowsher High School	Toledo
Lucas	Chase STEM School	Toledo
Lucas	Jones Leadership Academy	Toledo

Lucas	Rogers High School	Toledo
Lucas	Start High School	Toledo
Mahoning	Campbell Memorial High School (8th grade)	Campbell
Mahoning	Canfield High School	Canfield
Mahoning	Chaney High School Campus of VPA & STEM	Youngstown
Mahoning	Mahoning County Career and Technical Ctr	Canfield
Mahoning	Poland Middle School	Poland
Mahoning	West Branch Middle School	Beloit
Medina	Broadway Creek Homeschool Academy	Medina
Medina	Highland High School	Medina
Medina	Medina County Career Center	Medina
Medina	Wadsworth High School	Wadsworth
Mercer	Marion Local School	Maria Stein
Mercer	Parkway High School	Rockford
Mercer	St. Henry High School	St. Henry
Miami	Milton Union Exempted Village Middle School	West Milton
Miami	Milton Union High School	West Milton
Miami	Piqua High School	Piqua
Miami	Tippecanoe High School	Tipp City
Montgomery	Miami Valley Career Technology Center	Englewood
Montgomery	Miamisburg High School	Miamisburg
Montgomery	Northmont High School	Clayton
Montgomery	Oakwood High School	Oakwood
Ottawa	Oak Harbor High School (8th grade)	Oak Harbor
Pike	Pike Christian Academy	Waverly
Pike	Pike Christian Academy (Middle School)	Waverly
Portage	Brown Middle School	Ravenna
Portage	Ravenna High School	Ravenna
Preble	Eaton High School	Eaton
Richland	Ontario High School	Ontario
Ross	Huntington High School	Chillicothe
Shelby	Anna High School	Anna
Stark	Canton South High School	Canton
Stark	East Canton High School	E Canton
Stark	Glen Oak High School	Canton
Stark	Hoover High School	North Canton
Stark	Louisville Middle School	Louisville
Stark	Minerva High School	Minerva
Stark	Perry High School	Massillon
Stark	Sandy Valley Middle School	Magnolia
Summit	Buchtel Community Learning Center	Akron
Summit	Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy	Cuyahoga Falls
Summit	Green High School	Green
Summit	Hudson High School	Hudson
Summit	Revere High School	Richfield

Summit	Stow-Munroe Falls High School	Stow
Summit	Tallmadge Middle School	Tallmadge
Trumbull	Trumbull Career and Technical Center	Warren
Van Wert	Van Wert High School	Van Wert
Warren	Lebanon High School	Lebanon
Warren	Warren County Career Center	Lebanon
Wayne	Chippewa Middle School	Doylestown
Wayne	Edgewood Middle School	Wooster
Wayne	Northwestern High School	West Salem
Wayne	Norwayne High School	Creston
Wayne	Orrville High School	Orrville
Wayne	Rittman High School	Rittman
Wayne	Smithville High School	Smithville
Wayne	Triway High School	Wooster
Wayne	Wayne County Career Center	Smithville
Wayne	Waynedale High School	Apple Creek
Wayne	Wooster High School	Wooster
Wood	Bowling Green High School	Bowling Green