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***Believe in Ohio* Program Introduces Exceptional Online Professional Development Opportunities for STEM and Business/Economics Teachers**

Columbus and Cleveland (October 29, 2020) ... The *Believe in Ohio (BiO)* program is pleased to announce two exceptional professional development opportunities for STEM and business/economics teachers.

Online STEM Professional Development Workshop Opportunities for STEM and Business/Economics teachers: *Believe in Ohio* provides the program curriculum in a Google Classroom for teachers. These workshops will familiarize teachers with the concepts of entrepreneurship and design-thinking ideation by engaging teachers in the very resources that they can utilize with their students to develop a STEM business or commercialization plan. Through this process of engagement, the workshop will provide instruction and activities to increase teachers' conceptual knowledge of the entrepreneurial mindset, design-thinking, and the relationship between STEM and innovation. There are two ways to earn Professional Development credit through the *Believe in Ohio* program:

1. Continuing Education Credit – 7 contact hours – FREE
 - [Click here to review the syllabus](#)
 - [Click here for more information and to sign up](#)
2. College Credit through Ashland University – 1 credit hour – \$180
 - [Click for registration information](#)
 - [Click here to review the syllabus](#)
 - [Click here for more information and to sign up](#)

Funded by the State of Ohio through the Ohio Department of Higher Education, the *Believe in Ohio* program is part of the *Ohio High School STEM Innovation and Ohio College Scholarship and Retention Program*.

It is the objective of the *Believe in Ohio* program to create a “Culture of Innovation” in Ohio high schools and to encourage students to continue their educations and careers in Ohio by providing college scholarships to Ohio colleges and universities. It accomplishes this by focusing on the practical application of STEM and related fields and the development of an entrepreneurial mindset and critical thinking skills students will need in the future.

Believe in Ohio is a free, comprehensive, experiential learning STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) entrepreneurship and innovation program for Ohio high school students that was collaboratively developed by The Ohio Academy of Science and Entrepreneurial Engagement Ohio. *Believe in Ohio's* personalized, student-centered learning experience allows students to explore their own areas of interest and teaches them how to commercialize solutions to problems by developing a STEM Commercialization Plan or STEM Business Plan. In addition to the professional development opportunities noted above, the *Believe in Ohio's* program also includes the following:

Curriculum Resources and Teacher Support Grants:

BiO provides teachers with an extensive portfolio of curriculum resources that will work in any learning environment. BiO provides each participating teacher with their own personalized Google Classroom that includes an extensive and comprehensive array of teaching and learning resources, including an expanded number of student videos, and a Design Thinking / Ideation Mini-Course that can help students develop their problem-solving skills. Participating teachers are also eligible to receive \$300 to \$595 in teacher support grants.

Local STEM Plan Competitions and Awards:

High school students have an opportunity to develop a STEM Commercialization Plan or a STEM Business Plan for entry into a local high school competition. Depending on the number of student plans completed within each school, BiO will provide from \$300 to \$2,500 in funding for student competition awards. Local high school plans that receive certain high scores from judges will be invited to participate in a regional competition.

Regional STEM Plan Competitions and Scholarships:

One hundred of the highest scoring regionally judged plans, with representation from each region of the state, will each receive a \$1,000 scholarship to any Ohio college or university, or post-secondary career center or vocational school, and will also be entered into a state STEM competition.

Statewide STEM Plan Competition:

At Believe in Ohio’s state competition, twenty-five \$10,000 scholarships to Ohio colleges and universities, post-secondary career centers and vocational schools will be awarded.

Statewide STEM Scholarship Program:

The purpose of this scholarship program is to recognize students throughout Ohio for their contributions to STEM Innovation and Entrepreneurship. All Ohio high school students, who are juniors or seniors during the 2020-2021 school year, and who meet the qualifications, are invited to apply. At least one \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded in each of Ohio’s ninety-nine State House of Representative districts, and thirty-three Ohio State Senate districts.

STEM Advocate Network:

BiO has a network of regional STEM Advocates to help teachers implement the program, answer questions, and provide support to participating teachers.

For more information about the Believe in Ohio program, please visit the website at: www.BelieveinOhio.org



About The Ohio Academy of Science:

With more than 1,400 members and a network of thousands of supporters and volunteers, 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 (Regional and State Science Day science fairs, The Buckeye Science and Engineering Fair, and *Believe in Ohio*) 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. It provides educational instruction, curriculum, mentoring and other information that help develop the entrepreneurial, economic, business, and scientific literacy of students and the community that will be needed for the 21st Century. www.EEOhio.org