



Believe in Ohio

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Believe in Ohio Statewide STEM Scholarship program recognizes and awards forty-six (46) students with \$46,000 in scholarships to attend any Ohio technical center, college or university.

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. The Believe in Ohio program also recognizes students throughout Ohio for their contributions to STEM Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

Recently, 46 juniors and seniors from 41 high schools throughout Ohio were recognized for their contributions to STEM Innovation and Entrepreneurship. Each student will receive a \$1,000 scholarship at attend any Ohio technical college, college, or university. The application process evaluated academic achievement, answers to essay questions, and validated their accomplishments within STEM or Entrepreneurship.

“STEM and Entrepreneurship are the basis for innovation and building new business opportunities”, said Michael E. Woytek, Executive Director for The Ohio Academy of Science. Woytek went on to add, “Ohio has a long tradition of innovation, and these students are the future professionals needed to propel Ohio’s innovation economy”.

For many of the scholarship awardees, the Believe in Ohio Statewide STEM Scholarship introduced them for the first time to *Choose Ohio First*, a scholarship program that is dedicated to producing more Ohio STEM graduates.

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.

The 2021 Believe in Ohio Statewide STEM Scholarship Awardees:

City	Name	High School
Akron	Mr. Gabriel DiFiore	Firestone CLC
Antwerp	Mr. Eric Thornell	Antwerp Local High School
Arcanum	Ms. Jorie McDermott	Arcanum High School
Arcanum	Ms. Grace Wooten	Arcanum High School
Beavercreek	Ms. Allyson Miller	Dayton Regional STEM
Bellbrook	Ms. Dasha Crocker	Bellbrook High School
Belpre	Ms. Victoria Smith	Warren High School
Boardman	Mr. Aidan Swavel	Boardman High School
Brunswick	Mr. Rithvik Ayyagari	Saint Ignatius High School
Chesterland	Mr. Ryan McGinnis	West Geauga High School
Cleveland	Ms. Zaynab Saheed	Campus International High School
Columbia Station	Mr. Landon Hunt	Columbia High School
Columbus	Mr. Samia Mahamed	Metro Early College High School
Dayton	Mr. Joseph Gulas	Archbishop Alter High School
Delaware	Mr. Caylee Combs	Rutherford B. Hayes High School
Delaware	Ms. Brynn McGrail	Rutherford B. Hayes High School
Dublin	Ms. Mohini Parvate	Dublin Jerome High School
Fayetteville	Ms. Lana Roy	Blanchester High School
Findlay	Mr. Chloe Hughes	Findlay High School
Greenville	Mr. Landon Muhlenkamp	Greenville Senior High School
Hillsboro	Mr. Carter Stevens	Blanchester High School
Jackson	Mr. Owen White	Jackson High School
Jefferson	Ms. Faith Blankenship	Jefferson Area Sr. High School
Kenton	Mr. Owen Styer	Kenton High School
Kettlersville	Ms. Alexis Shannon	Anna High School
Mason	Ms. Sanchita Paranthaman	William Mason High School
Massillon	Ms. Snehal Choudhury	Jackson High School
Maumee	Mr. Jacob Zajkowski	Anthony Wayne High School
Mentor	Mr. John Olenik	Lake Catholic High School
Miamisburg	Mr. Ethan Elking	Miamisburg High School
New Albany	Mr. Elijah Mansur	New Albany High School
North Royalton	Ms. Yaryna Kurdoba	Beaumont School
Portsmouth	Ms. Viviana Wheeler	Notre Dame High School
Ripley	Ms. Maci Haitz	Ripley Union Lewis Huntington
Sidney	Ms. Annamarie Stiver	Lehman Catholic High School
Solon	Mr. Cyril Andrews	University School
South Point	Mr. Paul Fryer	Tri-State STEM+M Early College High School
Sylvania	Mr. Haroon Lughmani	Sylvania Northview High School
Troy	Ms. Katie Weddle	Miami East High School
Uniontown	Mr. Grant Daly	Green High School
Urbana	Mr. Eric Goddard	Global Impact Stem Academy
Van Wert	Ms. Jamie Burenga	Van Wert High School
Van Wert	Ms. Sophie Rutkowski	Van Wert High School
Versailles	Ms. Lauren Menke	Versailles High School
West Jefferson	Mr. Andrew Geyer	Madison Plains High School
Wheelersburg	Ms. Serena Kataria	Wheelersburg High School