



The 2012 first place winners of \$10,000 were Trent Wolf and Benjamin Harris of Central Michigan University. Pictured from left to right are Senator Phil Pavlov, Benjamin Harris, Trent Wolf, Representative Lisa Lyons, Thomas Greitens (mentor).



Winners and members of the Senate Education Committee from left to right: Andrew McLean, 5th place winner of Grand Valley State University; Senator Joe Hune; Amanda Kruzal, 4th place winner of MSU—James Madison College; Senator Patrick Colbeck; Senator Judy Emmons, Senator Coleman Young, Senator Phil Pavlov, Chair; Linda Shea; Jim Shea; Trent Wolf and Benjamin Harris, 1st place winners of CMU; Senator Hoon-Yung Hopgood.

www.studentsreinventingmichigan.com

Students Reinventing Michigan

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Students Reinventing Michigan is organized under Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code (the "Code"), as a corporation not organized for profit but operated exclusively for the promotion of civic and social welfare, including promoting the education and training of students to recognize contemporary problems and propose solutions that will benefit the common good and general welfare of the community, and conducting all activities incidental or necessary to accomplish the forgoing purposes or otherwise permitted by Section 501(c)(4) of the Code.

OVER \$20,000
IN CASH AWARDS

STUDENTS REINVENTING MICHIGAN COMPETITION

Eliminating Childhood Obesity



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A few words about my experience: I was enrolled in Sociology of Education when I became aware of the Students Reinventing Michigan competition, and I thought it would be a great way to apply what I was learning. While researching, I had the opportunity to delve into the interworkings of Michigan's educational policy and found it fascinating, which has prompted me to explore career pathways in educational policy. Dr. Mari Dagaz advised me on the project and was instrumental in helping me develop the idea into a full-scale proposal. Though I am unable to attend the presentation, I am excited and grateful for the opportunity to have my idea heard by Michigan policy makers.

Amberly Dzieszinski, Central Michigan University

STUDENTS REINVENTING MICHIGAN COMPETITION

Eliminating Childhood Obesity

Students Reinventing Michigan is sponsoring its third annual competition open to all undergraduate students who are attending Michigan universities, colleges and community colleges. The grand prize is \$10,000 with an additional \$10,000 shared by second, third and fourth place.

The goal of Students Reinventing Michigan is to engage students in finding solutions to contemporary problems that face the Legislature and the citizens of Michigan. Each year a different and challenging problem facing our state will be chosen. The competition will have students develop a comprehensive plan to address the chosen topic. The plan must be one that lawmakers and the public will support. The 2013/2014 topic will be:

How to Eliminate Childhood Obesity

Obesity and, in particular, childhood obesity is an epidemic plaguing our nation. More than 30% of Michigan's children ages 10-17 are considered obese with Michigan ranking 25th in the nation (Alliance for a Healthier Generation, 2012) and 27th in the world (Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development, 2012). The growing problem of childhood obesity is leading us to a public health crisis with overweight children becoming overweight adults. The risk factors for long term health issues

increase dramatically as a result of obesity. According to the Centers for Disease Control, roughly 70 percent of obese children are thought to have at least one risk factor for heart disease. Other health risks include diabetes, high blood pressure and high cholesterol which all lead to increased medical costs. What solutions do you propose to help reduce Michigan's childhood obesity rate and how would you implement them?

Eligibility

- Any undergraduate student or team of undergraduate students attending any Michigan university, college or community college whose primary residence is in Michigan may participate.
- An instructor, professor or graduate assistant/student from any Michigan university, college or community college who mentors any student participant or team of participating students is eligible to win a cash prize.

Details of the Program

- Proposals will be due no later than 5:00 PM on February 1, 2014.
- Upon submission of the proposal, a bipartisan team of judges headed by Senator James Marleau, Chair of the Senate Health Policy Committee and Representative Gail Haines, Chair of the House Health Policy Committee will review and determine all awardees.
- Each of the awardees will be invited to attend a joint hearing of the Senate and House Health Policy Committees to present their plans.

For full details, please visit www.studentsreinventingmichigan.com.

Participating in the Students Reinventing Michigan was probably one of the best experiences of my college career thus far. The experience I gained as well the lessons I learned from submitting a proposal to the competition are unmatched by any of my other experiences. Especially, since I feel that our proposal could actually have a significant impact on the real problems facing Michigan.

Trent Wolf, Central Michigan University