



## For Immediate Release

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### Local Student Recognized for Pitch

“Three key words, There’s Still Hope” is how Nicholas Reese’s pitch video begins. Entered into the Ohio Afterschool Network (OAN) Summer Pitch Challenge, Nicholas’s Reese took first place in the high school competition.

In his 90 second video Nicholas shares a student’s perception of his world - in turmoil, with not everyone “getting an equal shot at success.” His business idea, TSH (There’s Still Hope), provides students with one-on-one tutors to ensure students understand lectures, directions and ensure everyone succeeds. With TSH “Everyone gets an equal shot at life, not just those who already have had a chance to taste it.”

Nicholas, who is a student at Akron Public Schools (APS) North High School, learned of OAN’s Summer Pitch Challenge through APS and went right to work on what ended up being our winning entry. The challenge provided students with engaging learning challenges and opportunities throughout the summer.

A total of eight APS students submitted pitch videos for the challenge.

As winner of the competition Nicholas will receive a \$500 Amazon gift card, a one-on-one consultation with a successful entrepreneur, and a scholarship to participate in [Rev1Venture’s Customer Learning Lab](#), a bootcamp for aspiring entrepreneurs.

OAN is partnering with the Young Entrepreneur Institute to bring entrepreneurship to summer and afterschool programs across the state and help youth learn about and strengthen their “entrepreneurial mindset.”

The entrepreneurial mindset helps young people prepare for success at home, school, and life – whether or not they become entrepreneurs. Trying times brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, social unrest, and economic recession can make students feel powerless and helpless. However, flexing one’s entrepreneurial mindset – including opportunity seeking, curiosity, adaptability, persistence, and problem solving – can combat feelings of helplessness and help students take positive action.

Young Entrepreneur Institute’s free K-12 resources are available to all who work with youth in faith-based groups, libraries, community organizations and schools and their Northeast Ohio Pitch Challenge opening in October 2020 is open to Akron youth. Learn more at their website, [www.youngentrepreneurinstitute.org](http://www.youngentrepreneurinstitute.org).

The Ohio Afterschool Network is a statewide organization dedicated to supporting learning and enrichment in the out-of-school time hours, [www.ohioafterschoolnetwork.org](http://www.ohioafterschoolnetwork.org).

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