



**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 25<sup>th</sup> in the nation (Alliance for a Healthier Generation, 2012) and 27<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.studentsreinventingmichigan.com)**.