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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 12, 2018

## Grand Haven Schools Recognized for Innovation in Education

**GRAND HAVEN, MI** – In the past month, Grand Haven Area Public Schools (GHAPS) has been recognized by two statewide organizations for the District’s innovative approaches to preparing students for success in some of Michigan’s most in-demand career fields.

The Michigan Department of Talent and Economic Development (TED) named GHAPS as one of the Marshall Plan for Talent champions, acknowledging the District’s innovative approaches to college and career readiness in fields like technology, advanced manufacturing and professional trades. The goal of the Marshall Plan for Talent, announced by Governor Rick Snyder earlier this year, is to develop the world’s best talent for in-demand careers by transforming Michigan’s talent and education system. According to TED, Michigan will have more than 811,000 career openings to fill through 2024, with some of the greatest opportunities in STEM-related fields and the skilled trades.

“Our district seeks success for all,” says GHAPS Superintendent Andrew Ingall. “Our students have many different talents and interests, and we do our very best to prepare them for a variety of paths after graduation. But knowing about some of the specific career opportunities available right here in our community and throughout Michigan, we are focused on the development of creative problem solving skills, from elementary all the way through high school.”

Ingall’s commitment to generating interest in and preparing students for in-demand careers led the Michigan Design Council to honor him with the 2018 Michigan Economic Development Award. This award recognizes his efforts to organically grow industrial design talent and foster a culture of creative thinking. Since joining GHAPS in 2015, Ingall has worked closely with district principals and teachers to bolster project-based learning and develop community partnerships that provide relevant, hands-on experiences for students. He will be honored at an awards ceremony on June 19, 2018 at the University of Michigan’s Museum of Art.

The accolades from TED and the Michigan Design Council reveal the growth of innovation at GHAPS, particularly in STEM-related curriculum. In addition to successful, established programs like FIRST Robotics and Science Olympiad, GHAPS has two new initiatives in progress.

In 2017, local advanced manufacturer Shape Corp. introduced GHAPS to the SME PRIME program. SME, formerly the Society of Manufacturing Engineers, connects manufacturing professionals, companies, educators, schools and communities in order to solve challenges in the manufacturing industry. PRIME (Partnership Response in Manufacturing Education) works collaboratively with schools and businesses to build custom programs that meet the educational needs of students and address the industry’s talent needs.

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With a focus on the skills needed for quality control jobs at Shape Corp., Grand Haven High School students will have access to two custom courses in Fall 2018, complete with new equipment and professional certification options. In addition, GHAPS leverages SME's national partnership with General Motors to build awareness and excitement about careers in advanced manufacturing.

GHAPS, in partnership with the Chamber of Grand Haven, Spring Lake and Ferrysburg, is also preparing to launch a new program called Homegrown. While PRIME mainly serves high school students, Homegrown brings design thinking and project-based learning to elementary school classrooms by pairing teachers with local manufacturers to solve actual design challenges. This fall, nine different classrooms will partner with local leaders from Automatic Spring Products Corp., Beacon Recycling, GHSP, Herman Miller and Klever Innovations.

“With Homegrown, we’re making our very own program, with our very own local partners” says Ingall. “And since we’re launching it at the elementary level, it generates early interest in high-demand careers – especially ones students can pursue here in our own community.”

While these new programs are recent additions to GHAPS, students are already benefitting from the District's commitment to project-based learning and creative problem solving. Recent student accomplishments include:

- Grand Haven High School students Brenner Kar and Jake Klahorst won the worldwide 2018 Extreme Redesign Challenge for designing a nail shield that collects clippings from standard fingernail clippers. This marks the second time students from GHHS have won this international challenge, and GHHS students are regularly finalists in the competition.
- Second grade students Evelyn Portenga, Mary Pugsley and Carmen Tolliver, from Mary A. White Elementary, were awarded honorable mention in the Michigan Design Council's 2018 Michigan Design Prize competition for their Treasure Hunt App Booth concept. In 2017, a 4<sup>th</sup> grade team from Rosy Mound Elementary won gold in the competition and a 1<sup>st</sup> grade team from Mary A. White Elementary won bronze.
- Additionally, two Peach Plains Elementary School teams were in the top three finishers for the Michigan Design Council's 2018 Michigan Design Prize competition. Students Matthew Kik, Addison Saurbaugh, Cengis Tulu and Sydney Wenberg received an award for their Swiss Stick, designed to operate like a Swiss Army tool in a stick form. Students Brody Ebel, Madeleine Jensen, Conner Sylvester and Alayna Thompson received an award for their Park Scooter, designed to operate like a supermarket scooter in a natural environment or park.

Grand Haven Area Public Schools is a district of distinction for students preschool through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. With a goal of providing exceptional educational experiences, GHAPS is committed to success for all students and strives to provide exemplary programs and opportunities to meet the diverse needs of students.

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**For more information about this story, contact King Media at 517.333.2048.**