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Carmel High School Student Selected as Finalist in National Bright Ideas STEM from Today's Youth Competition

Indianapolis, IN. (*February 17, 2015*) – Vikas Maturi, a junior at Carmel High School, is one of six finalists in Bright House Networks Bright Ideas STEM from Today's Youth program. Bright Ideas STEM, a multi-state competition for high school students, challenged students to dream up the coolest inventions to make their own life, community or even the world, more awesome... and show how STEM – that's science, technology, engineering and math, can bring their idea to life.

Maturi's winning idea was a mechanized eye dropper for the elderly. His concept would enable patients who struggle with arthritis or mental disorders to apply necessary eye drops without facing undue hardship or pain. The ease of treatment would ensure that all sufferers of crippling eye diseases would have the best chance of maintaining their vision for as long as possible. There would also be an additional component in which the eye drop application process would provide a feedback loop to the treating physician.

"The inspiration for my idea came primarily from my grandfather," said Maturi. "Last year, his vision started to decline, and he had no choice but to undergo cataract surgery. The treatment process after surgery required an aggressive regimen of eye drops. However, he was completely unable to apply them, requiring my grandmother and parents to take on that responsibility of care. While my grandfather had a strong support system who took care of him, I realized that there are thousands out there that don't have that same support."

Maturi will now travel to Orlando, Fla., where he will compete head-to-head on TV, in front of a studio audience, at the Finalist Pitch Event on March. Each finalist will have no more than six minutes to pitch their ideas to a panel of experts who will select one lucky winner. The program will be recorded and available via Video on Demand (VOD) on Bright House Networks.

“I am so excited to be speaking on television,” said Maturi. “It is such a great opportunity, and one that I could have never imagined myself having. I know there are many people rooting for me in this competition and I hope the judges can see the awesome potential of this idea.”

The Grand Prize Winner will have the chance to work with leading innovation firm Fahrenheit 212 in New York to build a virtual prototype and a business plan – which means this student’s dream or idea could potentially be realized and fulfilled!

“Bright House Networks Indianapolis Division is thrilled to have Vikas represent us as a Bright Ideas STEM from Today’s Youth finalist,” Don Williams, VP/GM Indianapolis Division. “He is an outstanding student, and we applaud all of the amazing students who entered ideas in the competition; today’s youth are tomorrow’s leaders and it has been such an inspirational experience to see the creative inventions these students have developed that could possibly change our world!”

More information is available online about all of Bright House Networks educational initiatives, including its Future Leaders Scholarship program and Classroom Innovators Grant program at www.brighthouse.com/about/about-us/community.

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Bright House Networks is the sixth largest owner and operator of cable systems in the U.S. and the second largest in Florida with technologically advanced systems located in five states including Florida, Alabama, Indiana, Michigan and California.

Bright House Networks serves approximately 2.5 million customers who subscribe to one or more of its video, high-speed data, home security and automation and voice services. The company also offers a strong portfolio of customizable, advanced business solutions for video, voice, data, cloud-based and managed services. The company is MEF-certified and also recently received the Cisco® Master Service Provider Certification under the Cisco Cloud and Managed Service Program, the first cable operator in the United States to achieve this designation. Bright House Networks also owns and operates exclusive, award-winning, local news and sports channels in its Florida markets. More information is available about Bright House Networks or our products and services, visit brighthouse.com.

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