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Michigan Tech Student Team Receives iOme 2019 Challenge Award

WASHINGTON, DC – The Women’s Institute for a Secure Retirement (WISER) is pleased to announce that the winners of the 2019 *iOme Challenge* competition are a student team from Michigan Technological University. The students-- Zach Rosenbaum, Graduate student, Data Science, Cole Peppin, Undergraduate, Chemical Engineering, and John Ruf, Undergraduate, Mechanical Engineering, minors in Economics and Math, were selected for their essay “*The Basic Proposal: Retirement Policy for a New Generation*”.

The iOme (I OWE ME) Challenge is a national competition to raise awareness among college students about the impact of retirement security on the social and economic well-being of our society. Students from across the country respond to the annual iOme Challenge with a policy paper and a promotional video. This year, students were asked to imagine that Congress named them to an Independent Commission on Retirement, with instructions to re-evaluate and modernize the retirement system from the perspective of Gen Z’ers.

“The team’s essay challenges current assumptions and asks us to take a bold, fresh look at the future of retirement, considering demographic challenges and changes in the workforce for their age cohort” said David Wegge, Interim Dean of Schneider School of Business and Economics, St. Norbert College, one of the founders of the competition and a member of the judging panel.

Cindy Hounsell, President of *Women’s Institute for a Secure Retirement*, sponsor of the competition said, “The team’s proposal is bound to spark a lively and important discussion of differing viewpoints. We are impressed by the team’s willingness to have a full and frank conversation about the demographic and funding challenges younger generations face in planning for retirement, as well as an examination as to whether the current three pillars are adequate for their generation.”

The team will present their paper at a symposium, *New Perspectives: An Intergenerational Discussion on Retirement Solutions* in Washington, DC on June 19, 2019. The faculty advisor for the project, Emanuel Xavier-Oliveira, PhD, Assistant Professor of Economics, School of Business & Economics, Michigan Technological University will also participate in the panel. The symposium is sponsored by WISER and will feature a keynote speaker, panels of experts and congressional staff leaders. A reception will follow honoring the iOme Challenge winners.

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The Women’s Institute for a Secure Retirement is a non-profit founded in 1996 and is dedicated to the education and advocacy that will improve long-term financial quality of life for women. As the only organization to focus exclusively on the unique financial challenges that women face, WISER supports women’s opportunities to secure adequate retirement income through research, workshops and partnerships. www.wiserwomen.org