Written by Rep. Mike Smiddy
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PORT BYRON, IL – State Rep. Mike Smiddy (D-Hillsdale) invites local K-12 students to participate
in Google's Doodle 4 Google contest for the opportunity to have their artwork featured on the Google homepage and receive a $30,000 college scholarship and a $50,000 technology grant for his or her school.

Google doodles are the fun versions of the Google logo that appear on the Google homepage to recognize special events and people. The theme for this year's contest is "My Best Day Ever…" and students are invited to submit their entries by mail or online by the March 22, 2013 deadline. On May 1, 2013, the 50 state winning designs will be opened up for a public vote. State winners will be flown to New York City for a national awards ceremony on May 22, 2013, where the National Winner will be announced.

"Doodle 4 Google is an innovative and fun way to encourage students to be creative," said Smiddy. "As a parent, I appreciate Google's commitments to stimulating young imaginations and helping to support schools and families with the grant and scholarship money available through this contest."

Doodles will be judged by Google users and a panel of guest judges, including journalist Katie Couric, musician Ahmir "?uestlove" Thompson of The Roots, Chris Sanders, writer and director of Lilo & Stitch and How to Train Your Dragon, and Pendleton Ward, creator of Adventure Time.

Entry forms, contest rules, an educator's guide, and more information can be found at www.google.com/doodle4google. Smiddy's constituent services office can be reached at RepSmiddy@gmail.com, (309) 848-9098, or toll-free at (855) 243-4988.

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