



Update on the 2020 Dempsey Startup Competition - March 19, 2020

The Buerk Center for Entrepreneurship is committed to hosting the 2020 Dempsey Startup Competition and has been working behind the scenes to determine how we might provide a high-quality experience for student teams around the region. In light of the [University of Washington's announcement that Spring Quarter classes will take place online](#), we have **adapted our competition format into an entirely virtual experience.**

Our goal is to retain as much of the original format of the competition as possible, but to host the experience using Zoom in addition to our competition management platform, Reviewr. Given that the first round of the competition (the Screening Round) is already an online experience, our task is to shift the live, in-person events to a virtual format.

The Investment Round on April 29th will be held as a virtual event from 1-5pm.

Judges will be invited to join us on Zoom for a virtual welcome and to hear 60-second pitches from the teams. After the pitches, each team will host their own virtual booth using Zoom. Judges will be provided with a link to each team's virtual booth and can visit each of them between 2-4:30pm to ask questions using the video or chat function. When the judges' have finished visiting the teams, they will enter their scores into our competition management platform, Reviewr. Judging will close at 5pm, and we will announce the Sweet 16 teams via email and social media on later that evening.

We will make several small adjustments to the Investment Round so that we can provide a more manageable and more robust virtual experience:

- 30 teams will advance from the Screening Round to the Investment Round instead of 36.
- The top 30 teams will be asked to submit a video recording of a 60-second pitch, and will also deliver their pitch virtually during the first hour of the live event.

The Coaching Round (May 14th), Sweet 16, and Final Rounds (May 21st) will also be held as virtual events. Details will be provided to judges participating in those rounds in the coming weeks.

We have also decided to postpone the annual Dinner + Awards Ceremony on May 21st. Instead, we will make the announcements of the prize-winning teams via email and on social media. Our hope is to be able to convene our community in-person in the Fall for a celebration of student entrepreneurship.

In order to create a strong virtual experience, we ask for your patience and flexibility as we all adapt to our new remote and virtual reality. Our goal is to provide the best possible learning experience for students throughout the competition.

If you have any questions about the competition, please contact Sarah Studer, Dempsey Startup Competition manager at ssuder@uw.edu.