

2024 CHALLENGES AND COMPETITIONS

OFFERED BY THE BUERK CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP



HEALTH INNOVATION CHALLENGE

Innovations in health and healthcare are sparking new approaches to wellness, care and treatment, safety, and access. If you have a passion for innovation and solving problems, develop your idea and make an impact!

Questions? Contact Jessica Roberto at jlb42@uw.edu
More details at hic.uw.edu

HIC: COMPETITION STEPS AND STAGES

ENTRY APPLICATION DEADLINE: JANUARY 29

Submit a 5–7 page business summary for official entry into the HIC.

RESOURCE NIGHT FOR FINALIST TEAMS: FEBRUARY 13

Mandatory attendance by at least one student team member.

PITCH WORKSHOP FOR FINALIST TEAMS: FEBRUARY 20

Mandatory attendance by at least one student team member.

1-PAGE BUSINESS SUMMARY: DUE BY FEBRUARY 22

Summaries are sent to judges before the day of the Challenge.

CHALLENGE DAY: FEBRUARY 29



ENVIRONMENTAL INNOVATION CHALLENGE

Reimagine the planet! This is your opportunity to innovate in areas like regenerative agriculture, circularity, climate tech, consumer products, and more. Channel that unshakable belief that you can have an impact on climate change through meaningful solutions. Form a team today!

Questions? Contact Lauren Brohawn at brohal@uw.edu
More details at eic.uw.edu

EIC: COMPETITION STEPS AND STAGES

ENTRY APPLICATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 12

Submit a 5–7 page business summary for official entry into the EIC.

RESOURCE NIGHT FOR FINALIST TEAMS: FEBRUARY 27

Mandatory attendance by at least one student team member.

PITCH WORKSHOP: MARCH 7

Mandatory attendance by at least one student team member.

1-PAGE BUSINESS SUMMARY: DUE BY MARCH 24

Summaries are sent to judges before the day of the Challenge.

CHALLENGE DAY: MARCH 28

HAVE AN IDEA? GREAT!

Now is the time to **CREATE YOUR IMPACT**



Competitions are open to students enrolled and in good standing at an accredited college or university in the Pacific Northwest, British Columbia, and Alaska. Some additional rules apply. **Do you have questions about the application? We can help.** Sign up for weekly office hours or contact us directly at startup.uw.edu



This is for all ideas! The Dempsey Startup is a new venture competition that brings together students from a variety of majors and disciplines looking to take the next step with their ideas. These startups focus on everything from high-tech and non-profit ideas to consumer products, healthcare, AI, sustainability, and more!

Questions? Contact Yuko Oaku at yukooaku@uw.edu
More details at foster.uw.edu/dempsey-startup

DEMPSEY STARTUP: STEPS AND STAGES

ENTRY APPLICATION DEADLINE: APRIL 1

Submit a 5–7 page executive summary for official entry into the Dempsey Startup Competition.

RESOURCE NIGHT FOR INVESTMENT ROUND TEAMS: APRIL 11

Mandatory attendance by at least one student team member.

INVESTMENT ROUND: MAY 2

Tradeshow-style event for the top 36 teams, ending with announcement of Sweet 16. Teams submit executive summary in advance.

COACHING ROUND: MAY 15

Non-competitive, mandatory virtual session for Sweet 16 teams.

SWEET 16 ROUND: MAY 23 (AM)

Teams must submit a 15–20 page business plan by May 17 and a PPT pitch deck by the morning of May 23. Top 4 teams selected to advance.

FINAL ROUND: MAY 23 (PM)

Team presentations in front of select panel of judges.

AWARDS DINNER TO FOLLOW THE EVENING OF MAY 23



**Sign up for our weekly newsletter
for updates at startup.uw.edu**

BUERK CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP

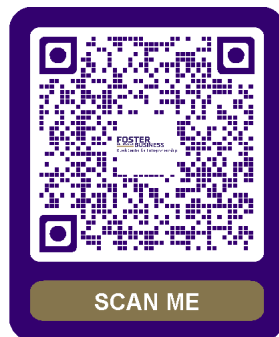
HELPED STUDENTS LAUNCH 1,400+ IMPACTFUL COMPANIES

AWARDED \$4+ MILLION IN PRIZE MONEY & SEED FUNDING



JOIN THE STUDENT STARTUP COMMUNITY

In 2022-2023, students from dozens of programs across UW campuses and 20+ colleges and universities across the region came together to compete in one of the three Buerk Center competitions.



PROTOTYPE FUNDING

Students interested in applying to the Hollomon Health Innovation Challenge or the Alaska Airlines Environmental Innovation Challenge can apply for funds to help develop their models, prototypes or services. Awards allow students to purchase materials, components, rent equipment or more. Funding requires application to one of the above competitions.

Learn more at startup.uw.edu

BUSINESS PLAN PRACTICUM (ENTRE 440/540)

This Winter Quarter course for registered UW students is taught by Christy Johnson, serial entrepreneur and CEO of the Artemis Connection. Students learn tangible ways to embrace failures and pivots on their way to taking their ideas to launch.

Learn more at startup.uw.edu

TEAM TUESDAY EVENTS

Students from all programs and majors are encouraged to attend the Buerk Center's Team Tuesday events taking place throughout the academic year. From special guests to opportunities to pitch your idea, recruit for your team, or gain connections and form/join a team, these fun weekly meetups will cement your place in the growing community across campus!

Learn more at startup.uw.edu



WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURIAL LEADERSHIP

The Buerk Center's brand new Women's Entrepreneurial Leadership program (WE Lead) promotes the advancement of women as entrepreneurs, leaders, investors, and agents of innovation through workshops, mentoring, and more. Open to students from any major. Women, non-binary folks, and allies across the gender spectrum are welcome.

Learn more at startup.uw.edu

STARTUPTREE, STARTUP ROCKET & DISCORD

University of Washington students can connect with each other and the Buerk Center through these online platforms! On StartupTree, students create a profile, register for events, and form cross-disciplinary teams. The UW Entrepreneurship Discord offers students a chance to engage and interact with each other and Buerk Center staff. Startup Rocket provides a multi-step incubation process to go from ideation to launch!

Learn more at startup.uw.edu

MORE COMPETITION PREPARATION *for all UW students*



NSF I-CORP CUSTOMER DISCOVERY GRANTS

Program offered by campus partners CoMotion and WE-REACH

Students can apply during the academic year to possibly receive a \$2,500 grant to discover the commercial potential of their idea. Program includes real-time training sessions, mentoring, and a final pitch event!

Apply at comotion.uw.edu

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SHOWCASE

Open to UW undergraduate and graduate students

SEBA and the Buerk Center host this event every January for students to explore the commercialization or business potential of their science- and technology-based ideas and win funding prizes.

Learn more at uwseba.com/sts

Non-UW students should connect with their college or university for additional resources to prepare for the competitions.



FOSTER
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Buerk Center for Entrepreneurship