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

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

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

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

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

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!

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.

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.

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!

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!

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.

100% of HiC and EIC teams can apply for the Dempsey Startup Competition

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