

2025 CHALLENGES + COMPETITIONS

ANNUAL EVENTS OFFER PRIZES, MENTORING AND MORE!

FOSTER
BUERK CENTER FOR
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

HEALTH INNOVATION CHALLENGE

CELEBRATING
10
2016-2025
YEARS

Hollomon



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: FEBRUARY 3

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

VIRTUAL RESOURCE NIGHT FOR FINALISTS: FEBRUARY 19

Mandatory attendance by at least one student team member.

VIRTUAL PITCH WORKSHOP FOR FINALISTS: FEBRUARY 25

Mandatory attendance by at least one student team member.

1-PAGE BUSINESS SUMMARY: DUE BY FEBRUARY 27

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

CHALLENGE DAY: THURSDAY, MARCH 6

ENVIRONMENTAL INNOVATION CHALLENGE

FOSTER
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UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON



Reimagine the future! This is your opportunity to innovate by creating climate and sustainability solutions through regenerative agriculture, circularity, climate tech, consumer products and more! Channel that unshakable belief that you can have an impact! 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 10

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

VIRTUAL RESOURCE NIGHT FOR FINALISTS: FEBRUARY 27

Mandatory attendance by at least one student team member.

VIRTUAL PITCH WORKSHOP FOR FINALISTS: MARCH 13

Mandatory attendance by at least one student team member.

1-PAGE BUSINESS SUMMARY: DUE BY MARCH 30

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

CHALLENGE DAY: THURSDAY, APRIL 3



Sign up for weekly newsletter at startup.uw.edu

HAVE AN IDEA? GREAT!

Now is the time to **START YOUR JOURNEY**



Competitions are open to students enrolled and in good standing at an accredited college or university in WA, OR, ID, British Columbia, and Alaska. Some additional rules apply. **Do you have questions about an 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, degrees 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 7

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

RESOURCE NIGHT FOR INVESTMENT ROUND TEAMS:

APRIL 17

Mandatory attendance by at least one student team member.

INVESTMENT ROUND: THURSDAY, MAY 1

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

VIRTUAL COACHING ROUND: MAY 14

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

SWEET 16 ROUND: THURSDAY, MAY 22 (AM)

Teams must submit a 15-20 page business plan by May 17 and a PPT pitch deck by the morning of May 22. Top 4 teams advance.

FINAL ROUND: THURSDAY, MAY 22 (PM)

Team presentations in front of select panel of judges.

AWARDS DINNER TO FOLLOW THE EVENING OF MAY 22

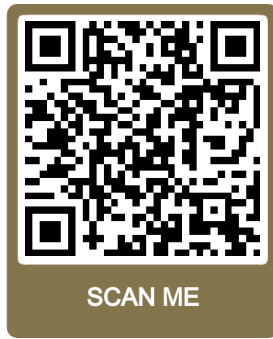
BUERK CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP

HELPED STUDENTS LAUNCH 2,000+ IMPACTFUL COMPANIES
AWARDED \$5+ MILLION IN PRIZE MONEY & SEED FUNDING



JOIN THE STUDENT STARTUP COMMUNITY

In 2023-2024, 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 and/or the Environmental Innovation Challenge can apply for funds to help develop their models, prototypes or services. Awards allow students to purchase materials, components, rent equipment and more. Funding requires application to one of the above competitions.

Learn more at startup.uw.edu + apply by **December 9, 2024**

BUSINESS PLAN PRACTICUM (ENTRE 440/540)

This 2-credit 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](http://startup.uw.edu)

TEAM TUESDAY LUNCH MEETUPS

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 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. All women, non-binary, and allies across the gender spectrum are welcome.

Learn more at startup.uw.edu

STARTUPTREE, STARTUP ROCKET, MEDIUM & 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 a live forum to connect. Startup Rocket provides a multi-step incubation process to go from ideation to launch. Medium hosts the new Buerk Center blog.

Learn more at startup.uw.edu

MORE COMPETITION PREPARATION *for all UW students*



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.

UW MAKERSPACES + STUDENT RSOs

Build, create, join a community with purpose!

UW offers a number of different makerspaces including The Mill, Area 01, The 8, and the UW Bothell Collaboratory that are great for prototyping. We also encourage you to join innovative student-led groups like Net Impact, cseed, Nucleate, Green Greeks, DubHacks, Lavin and more!

Find yours at hub.washington.edu/get-involved

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SHOWCASE

Open to UW undergraduate and graduate students

The Science & Engineering Business Association and the Buerk Center host this competition 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

