

# COMMUNITY COLLEGE INNOVATION CHALLENGE

2021 CCIC

*Advancing Student Innovation & Impact*



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As the voice of the nation's community colleges, the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), delivers educational and economic opportunity for approximately 12 million diverse students in search of the American Dream. Uniquely dedicated to access and success for all students, AACC's member colleges provide an on-ramp to degree attainment, skilled careers, and family-supporting wages. Located in Washington, D.C., AACC advocates for these not-for-profit, public-serving institutions to ensure they have the resources and support they need to deliver on the mission of increasing economic mobility for all.



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 4**    **What is the Community College Innovation Challenge (CCIC)?**
- 4**    **Why Enter?**
- 4**    **What Do You Win?**
- 5**    **What are the CCIC Competition Phases?**
- 7**    **How to Determine Eligibility**
- 7**    **What is the Timeline?**
- 8**    **How to Enter**
- 10**    **How are Entries Reviewed?**
- 11**    **How to Win the Challenge**
- 12**    **What are the Phase II Judging Criteria?**
- 13**    **Additional CCIC Rules and Requirements**
- 15**    **Frequently Asked Questions**

# WHAT IS THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE INNOVATION CHALLENGE (CCIC)?

The Community College Innovation Challenge (CCIC) is led by the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) in partnership with the National Science Foundation (NSF). It is a national competition where community college student teams, working with a supportive faculty or administrator mentor, use science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) to innovate solutions to real-world problems; participate in a Virtual Innovation Boot Camp; and compete for cash awards. The Virtual Innovation Boot Camp provides professional development, mentoring, and coaching designed to build strategic communication and entrepreneurial skills to help students advance their innovations in both the private and public sectors. Students participate in sessions on commercializing ideas, using technology for social applications, communicating with stakeholders, refining a pitch, and more. The Virtual Innovation Boot Camp culminates in a virtual poster session and engagement opportunity with STEM leaders and Congressional stakeholders, and a pitch presentation in front of a panel of esteemed industry professionals to determine the first, second, and third place winning teams.

## WHY ENTER?

The national CCIC is designed to enable community college students to discover and demonstrate their capacity to use STEM to make a difference in the world. It provides a venue to strengthen and further develop STEM thinking, apply it to solving real-world problems, and to build the skills necessary to carry invention from idea to society-benefitting innovation. Through the Virtual Innovation Boot Camp, finalist teams have the opportunity to interact with entrepreneurs, experts, and industry professionals in business planning, stakeholder engagement, communication, and marketplace dynamics; gain life-changing business acumen and communication skills; and engage with other community college innovators to make significant connections and to share ideas. Finalist teams showcase their projects and colleges, on a national stage, through a virtual poster session as well as compete in a pitch presentation at the end of the Virtual Innovation Boot Camp. The Boot Camp provides a friendly and constructive environment to hone innovation while gaining entrepreneurial skills and competing for cash awards.

## WHAT DO YOU WIN?

### AACC and NSF provide:

- National recognition and a plaque to each finalist team for their leadership in STEM innovation
- Certificates from NSF and AACC for each finalist team member
- Cash awards – awards are made to each first, second, and third place team member in the following amounts:
  - First place: \$3,000
  - Second place: \$2,000
  - Third place: \$1,000

# WHAT ARE THE CCIC COMPETITION PHASES?

## CCIC Phase I – Developing Ideas, Inventions, and Innovations

- 1. Assemble your Community College Team. Each team should consist of:**
  - A community college faculty or administrator mentor
  - 2-4 community college students
    - + Diverse and interdisciplinary teams that include students in STEM, business, humanities, and other fields are encouraged.
- 2. Develop breakthrough ideas using STEM.**
  - For the CCIC, student teams are asked to develop a STEM solution to a real-world problem of local to global concern.
  - Your team is **required** to:
    - + Identify a problem of local to global concern that you seek to address with your STEM innovation.
    - + Assess your innovation’s potential impact on society (such as on the economy, national security, global competitiveness, the environment, quality of life, etc.).
    - + Determine the scientific and market feasibility of the innovation, identifying any challenges and ways to potentially work through them.
    - + Share ideas for how the innovation would be implemented in a real-world scenario. Start thinking of yourselves as entrepreneurs with a novel invention, creation, or product you want to bring to the marketplace.
  - Your team **is not required** to have already implemented your innovation.
- 3. Apply to the CCIC with your STEM innovation by submitting a**
  - Written entry; and a
  - 90-second video.
- 4. Entries will be vetted by STEM innovation experts to select up to 10 finalist teams.**
- 5. The 10 finalist teams are expected to attend a Virtual Innovation Boot Camp taking place June 14-17, 2021. Boot Camp sessions will run daily between the hours of noon – 5:00 p.m. EDT.**
- 6. Finalist teams are also expected to prepare for the Virtual Innovation Boot Camp by participating in two orientation webinars and conducting 2-3 customer discovery interviews (as detailed in the orientation webinars) prior to participating in the virtual event.**
  - Welcome & Orientation to the Virtual Innovation Boot Camp  
May 7 from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. EDT
  - The Customer Discovery Journey in STEM Innovation  
May 11 from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. EDT
  - Customer Discovery Exploration for Finalist Teams  
May 11 – June 13, 2021 (on teams’ own time)
- 7. The 10 finalist teams will compete at the Virtual Innovation Boot Camp through a virtual poster session and a pitch presentation—with the first, second, and third place teams winning cash awards.**

## CCIC Phase II – The Virtual Innovation Boot Camp – Transforming Ideas to Impact

1. Finalist teams will attend a Virtual Innovation Boot Camp held on June 14-17, 2021 between the hours of 12:00 – 5:00 p.m. EDT.
2. Teams will discover the process for transforming ideas into reality through learning strategies for entrepreneurialism, customer discovery, lean start-up, business and product-developing methodology, strategic communications, and design-centered thinking.
3. Teams will gain practical communication skills through coaching and mentoring, and the opportunity to present their STEM innovations through a virtual poster session with national stakeholder engagement.
4. At the end of the Virtual Innovation Boot Camp, teams will conduct a pitch of their innovation in front of panel of esteemed judges to earn cash awards.
  - **Each** first, second, and third place team member wins cash awards: (1<sup>st</sup> place team members win \$3000 each; 2<sup>nd</sup> place team members win \$2000 each; and 3<sup>rd</sup> place team members win \$1000 each).
5. Teams are judged on their virtual posters and pitch presentation as part of the Virtual Innovation Boot Camp.

A graphic element consisting of a blue diamond shape with a white outline, containing two white quotation marks. It is positioned on the left side of the page, overlapping a green and blue diagonal background.

**T**he Boot Camp was a great learning experience. I am determined to become an entrepreneur now. It was something that always caught my attention but after this boot camp, I feel equipped with the confidence to pursue this dream. The most important thing was realizing that it was very possible for me to be an engineer and own a business that I am passionate about.

– CCIC Student Participant

## HOW TO DETERMINE ELIGIBILITY

- Each team must have 2 – 4 student members, and a faculty or administrator at their college who will function as a mentor to the team.
- All student team members must be seeking a two-year degree in the U.S. or its territories at the time of entry (e.g., the spring 2021 semester).
  - The only exception to the above requirement is if a team member registered as a participant in the 2020 CCIC. As the 2020 CCIC was cancelled, registered team members for the 2020 competition can reapply to be a team member for the 2021 CCIC even if no longer attending a community college. Individuals reapplying must be part of a team that has members that are currently enrolled in their alma mater in a two-year college degree-seeking program; play an active role on the team; and be approved by the faculty and/or administrative mentor for participation.
- All team members must be 18 years of age by March 31, 2021.
- Student and faculty/administrator mentor team members **must** be U.S. citizens, nationals, or permanent residents and will be required to check a box on the entry form verifying this status.
- Student team members must be in good standing with their academic institution, which is determined by the individual college.
- For teams chosen as finalists, the mentor and students **must be available** to attend the Virtual Innovation Boot Camp taking place **June 14-17, 2021** between the hours of 12:00 – 5:00 p.m. EDT.
- Teams may not consist of members from multiple institutions.
- Teams may not have submitted their innovation to any other competition.
- Students who attended a past Innovation Boot Camp as a finalist/winning team may not enter the CCIC again.
- Eligible students who submitted an entry to a past CCIC, but did not progress to the final round, may submit an entry in the 2021 CCIC.
- Faculty/administrator mentors who have attended a past Innovation Boot Camp may lead another team in the 2021 cycle.
- Employees, contractors, officers, or judges of the sponsoring organizations are not eligible to enter the competition.

## WHAT IS THE TIMELINE?

<b>February 18, 2021</b>	CCIC opens, accepting submissions
<b>April 20, 2021</b>	Submissions due by 11:59 p.m. EDT
<b>Late April to Early May 2021</b>	Submission judging
<b>Early May 2021</b>	10 finalist teams notified and announced
<b>Early May to June 13, 2021</b>	Finalist teams prepare for Innovation Boot Camp
<b>May 7, 2021</b>	Welcome & Orientation to the Virtual Innovation Boot Camp Webinar at 1:00 p.m. EDT
<b>May 11, 2021</b>	The Customer Discovery Journey in STEM Innovation Webinar at 1:00 p.m. EDT
<b>May 11 - June 13, 2021</b>	Customer Discovery for Finalist Teams
<b>June 14-17, 2021</b>	Virtual Innovation Boot Camp Virtual Poster Session & Pitch Presentation
<b>June 17, 2021</b>	First, Second, and Third Place Winning Teams announced

# HOW TO ENTER

## 1 Review this complete guidebook and confirm your eligibility.

## 2 Assemble a team of 2-4 students and a faculty or administrator mentor to develop a breakthrough idea that addresses a real-world problem.

## 3 Enter the competition online at [www.aaccinnovationchallenge.com](http://www.aaccinnovationchallenge.com)

- Click the “Enter Now” button on the homepage. This link takes you to the Competition Entry Platform, which is a separate website.
- **Before you submit your entry, the whole team must register:**

**The team’s mentor must initially register their team and invite all team members to join.** All team members must then join and provide the required personal information and upload any required forms. Any team member can then submit the team’s entry by the due date.

## 4 Develop a summary statement and a written entry that describes your innovation.

1. **Summary Statement:** Provide a short 500-character summary of your idea/project. The summary should be clear, concise, and written without technical jargon so people are able to understand what the project is, why it matters, and what impact it will have.
2. **Written Entry:** Provide a written entry that addresses each of the three sections detailed below. Please note that each section has a specified character limit, including spaces. **The written entry should be not be written by the faculty mentor.**
  - + **The Problem.** Clearly and succinctly define the problem of interest. Provide relevant background information and identify the context of the problem (i.e. who is affected, how long has the problem existed). Indicate why it is important that this problem be addressed. (1600 characters)
  - + **The Solution.** Describe your team’s innovative solution. What science and/or technology inform your solution? How is your solution innovative and different from other products/services intended to solve the same problem? What challenges or barriers must be overcome to make your solution a reality? (2100 characters)
  - + **The Impact and Benefits.** Describe how your team would measure the impact and benefits of your solution, if implemented. The societal impact of your innovation such as aiding national security, increasing U.S. global competitiveness, improving quality of life, expanding educational opportunities, etc., must be addressed. (1600 characters)

## 5 Prepare a 90-second video entry.

- The video entry should consist of a single, 90-second maximum video.
- The video should clearly articulate the problem, the team’s proposed solution to the problem, and how the team’s solution is innovative and unique in addressing the problem.
- The video entry should tell a compelling story and include methods and insights not provided in the written entry to create a novel presentation.
- The video entry should deliver clear and understandable messages using nontechnical language.

- Videos can be shot and edited by someone not on the team; **however, the subject(s) of the video and its content must be created by team members.**
- Videos do not have to include credits, but if they do, these need to be included in the 90-second time limit.
- If you use a phone to shoot a video, please be sure to shoot horizontally at all times.
- Recording a team Zoom call for the 90-second video and converting it to an MP4 is an option for video submission.
- When creating the video, a good best practice is to talk as if you are reiterating the question in your response. (Ex: “Our proposed solution to the problem is...” Or “Our team’s solution is innovative and different because....”)
- Please see the challenge website at [www.aaccinnovationchallenge.com](http://www.aaccinnovationchallenge.com) for additional tips and guidance for developing successful videos.

## 6 Upload your video.

- The video file can be directly uploaded to the entry platform in any file type. Please maintain a maximum file size of 150 MB.
- Please keep the following tips in mind when uploading:
  - + Keep file name under 30 characters.
  - + Do not include special characters in file names.
  - + Once uploaded, your video will take some time to be rendered depending on size. This can take from 30 seconds to a few minutes or longer.
  - + You will see a placeholder video in this spot while your video is processed.
  - + To check to see if your video is ready to be viewed, please refresh the page by clicking the “Dashboard” icon.
  - + If you are uploading a very large file or using a slow Internet connection, be aware that the system will time out after 60 minutes.
  - + Your video will need to be successfully uploaded into the platform before you can submit your application. Please allow enough time prior to the competition deadline to upload your submission video.

## 7 Complete additional entry requirements by providing the following information:

- College name and physical address.
- Entry title (please do not use acronyms).
- Suggested caption for video.
- Suggested credit for video.
- College Twitter account handle.
- College public information or media officer’s contact information (name, email, and phone number).
- Signed and uploaded “Certificate of Authenticity” form signed by the team’s mentor, which can be accessed on the entry platform.

# HOW ARE ENTRIES REVIEWED?

- All entries and team members will be screened for compliance with the competition rules and eligibility requirements.
- Each entry will be evaluated by a review panel of NSF, AACC, and community college experts based on the judging criteria that will equally weigh the following criteria when scoring Phase 1 entries:
  - **Innovation and Impact:** An assessment of the proposed solution's use of STEM to address the problem; potential impact to be transformative in the areas of the economy, quality of life, global competitiveness, education, etc.; and how the proposed solution differs from existing efforts in its use of novel concepts, methods, and/or technology.
  - **Feasibility:** An assessment of the likelihood that the solution will work as presented and can be replicated; and an evaluation of the team's recognition of potential barriers and suggestions for ways in which these barriers may be addressed.
  - **Clarity of Communication:** An assessment of the team's compliance with all entry guidelines (written and video entries), including structure, organization of facts and data, and the inclusion of clear, consistent messaging.
- Up to 10 of the highest-scoring entries will be selected for the final round of the competition.
- Teams will be notified if they become a finalist in early-May with detailed instructions on how to prepare for the Virtual Innovation Boot Camp and must participate in two webinars to cover all Boot Camp logistics and required preparation. Please plan to attend the following two webinars:
  - The first webinar, "Community College Innovation Challenge: Welcome & Orientation to the Virtual Innovation Boot Camp," will be held on Friday, May 7 from 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. EDT. This webinar will highlight expectations and agenda items for Boot Camp participation, discuss the virtual poster session and pitch presentation, provide guidance on mentoring and coaching support, and offer the opportunity for attendees to ask questions of the CCIC organizers.
  - The second webinar, "The Customer Discovery Journey in STEM Innovation" will be held on Tuesday, May 11 from 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. EDT. This webinar will provide participants with an overview of the Customer Discovery process, which is a key element of Virtual Innovation Boot Camp training, as well as provide answers to the following questions relevant to developing STEM innovations: (a) What is a business model? (b) What are the 9 parts of a business model? (c) What are hypotheses? and (d) What experiments are needed to test a business model hypothesis? In addition, CCIC finalist teams will be tasked with a Customer Discovery assignment to complete in advance of attending the Virtual Innovation Boot Camp.

The faculty mentor and student team members are required to attend the live webinars and/or view the webinar recordings if they are unable to attend the live events. AACC and NSF strongly encourage all team members to take part in the live webinars and/or view the recorded versions to ensure that teams are oriented to the Virtual Innovation Boot Camp, understand expectations for both Boot Camp participation and activities that need to be completed prior to participating, and have an opportunity to ask questions.

# HOW TO WIN THE CHALLENGE

- Become a finalist by coming up with a stand-out idea and Phase I submission.
- Prepare for the Virtual Innovation Boot Camp:
  - Begin focusing beyond the idea to explore its viability outside the lab, classroom, or workshop and understand how to make it desirable, available, and affordable in the real world.
  - Create a virtual poster presentation that clearly conveys how the idea solves a societal problem and how society benefits.
- Attend the Virtual Innovation Boot Camp:
  - Learn to calibrate ideas to marketplace needs and opportunities.
  - Receive coaching and mentoring in:
    - + Strategic communication,
    - + Design-centered thinking, and
    - + Identity and brand development.
- Showcase your project and college, on a national stage, through developing a virtual poster and a pitch presentation.
- Deliver a strong pitch presentation about the project before a distinguished panel of judges at the Virtual Innovation Boot Camp.



**A**ttending the Boot Camp was an honor. I really enjoyed learning communication skills. I will definitely use the skills that were taught every day from now on! Also, the connections I made... priceless!

– CCIC Student Participant

# WHAT ARE THE PHASE II JUDGING CRITERIA?

Performing proficiently during two activities will be essential to securing a spot in the winner's circle at the Virtual Innovation Boot Camp for finalists. One of these activities is a virtual poster session; the other is a pitch presentation. The overall effectiveness that finalist teams demonstrate through the combination of these two activities will determine the ultimate winner of this year's challenge. In other words, a team must perform well at both activities to win.

A distinguished panel of judges will adjudicate both activities using criteria that assess the finalist teams' abilities in skillfully representing their innovations during the virtual poster session, and in convincingly conveying the merits, value, and potential of their ideas during the pitch presentation. These two virtual events will be scored separately each accounting for half of the team's total combined score.

## Virtual Poster Session

Student teams will prepare a poster as part of their participation in a virtual poster session. Teams will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Does the team's poster identify a societal need; demonstrate how the innovation satisfies this need; communicate the innovation's novelty, feasibility, and viability; and substantiate the innovation's ability to produce measurable benefits?
- Does the team exhibit enthusiasm; knowledgeably represent the innovation; ask questions of virtual visitors and actively listen to answers; and align their responses and interactions to the interests of the attendees?
- Do the team's interactions in a virtual space convincingly champion their innovation's value and significance; effectively explain the STEM behind, and the uniqueness of, their innovation; make clear how society benefits; express optimism and vision; reflect positively on their team and their institution; and convey a roadmap for moving the project forward?

## Pitch Presentation

Student teams will be asked to create a 5-minute pitch presentation that demonstrates the team's concept, followed by a 5-minute question and answer period from the judges. Teams will be provided with coaching, mentoring, and time to prepare and refine their pitch presentations as part of the Virtual Innovation Boot Camp agenda. The pitch presentations will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Does the presentation clearly identify the societal problem, need, or opportunity that the innovation addresses; concisely explain how the idea solves this problem, and succinctly convey the benefits the idea can or will produce?
- Does the team tell a complete story that persuasively signals the idea's novelty, feasibility, and viability; reveal the idea's uniqueness, and differentiate it from other existing or possible approaches?
- Does the team provide a roadmap for where they would like to take their innovation, signal its value in the marketplace, and actively urge the listener to support its further development?

# ADDITIONAL RULES & REQUIREMENTS

## Deadline

- All eligible entries must be received during the competition submission window from February 18 – April 20, 2021.

## Original Work

- Each team entrant certifies, through submission to the competition, that the entry is their own original, creative work and does not violate or infringe the creative work of others, as protected under U.S. copyright law or patent law.
- Faculty/administrator mentors will be required to sign a certificate stating that the entry is original and has been independently developed by the **student members** of the team.

## Boot Camp Preparation and Participation

- All finalist team members are required to attend the Virtual Innovation Boot Camp, taking place on June 14-17, 2021.
- In addition, all finalist team members are required to participate in two orientation webinars (by attending the live webinars or viewing the recorded versions) and conducting assignments in preparation for the Virtual Innovation Boot Camp.
  - Preparatory assignments include conducting a 2-3 customer discovery interviews, developing a poster for the virtual poster session, and reviewing Boot Camp materials. The first webinar will take place on May 7, 2021 and the second on May 11, 2021. Both webinars will be held from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. EDT.
  - Detailed information on conducting interviews and preparing for the virtual poster session will be shared with teams upon their selection as finalists and through the orientation webinars.

## Copyright and Promotional Releases

- Entrants retain all copyright and equivalent rights but give AACC and NSF nonexclusive rights to use their names, likenesses, quotes, submissions or any part of their submission for educational publicity and/or promotional purposes. This includes, but is not limited to, website display, social media promotion, print materials, and exhibits.
- AACC and NSF will not be responsible for any claims or complaints from third parties about any disputes of ownership regarding the ideas, solutions, images, or video submissions.

## Awards

- Winners are responsible for all taxes or other fees connected with the award received.

## Code of Conduct

- The American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) seeks to foster a welcoming and intellectually stimulating experience for all participants at the Virtual Innovation Boot Camp. We expect all CCIC participants, presenters, judges, employees, and staff to recognize that while this event is a place for the open exchange of opinions by diverse individuals, respect and inclusivity for all is expected. In furtherance of this purpose, any behavior, whether personal or professional, that is unwelcome and offensive, or shows disrespect or aggression will not be tolerated. Persons determined by AACC to have engaged in unacceptable behavior may be required to depart the virtual venue and/or be further disqualified from the competition.

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## Legal and Administrative

- By entering the competition, the entrants agree to hold harmless, NSF and AACC for all legal and administrative claims to include associated expenses that may arise from any claims related to their submission or its use.
- All contestants agree that they, their heirs and estates shall hold harmless the United States, the employees of the federal government, the employees of NSF and AACC for any and all injuries and/or claims arising from participation in this contest, to include that which may occur while traveling to or participating in contest activities.
- A competition entry constitutes an agreement to adhere to the rules and stipulations set forth by the competition sponsors.
- Any entrants or entry found in violation of any rule will be disqualified.
- All judges' decisions are final and may not be appealed.
- AACC reserves the right for any reason, including but not limited to an insufficient number of qualified entries, to modify or cancel the CCIC at any time during the duration of the competition.
- AACC has the final say on any point not outlined in the entry rules.

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**T**hank you is not enough! Students' lives have been impacted and transformed this week. You have provided tools and techniques to use in future career paths. As a faculty mentor, it was a great honor to watch the students shine. Thank you for recognizing the importance of community colleges in our nation and the need to support innovative curriculum and opportunities.

– CCIC Faculty Mentor

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Below are some common questions. If your question is not addressed here, please email [CCIC@aacc.nche.edu](mailto:CCIC@aacc.nche.edu) and someone will respond to your inquiry.

- 1. Is the Virtual Innovation Boot Camp a science and engineering workshop?** **No.** Your team will not receive customized science coaching on your project at the Virtual Innovation Boot Camp. The Virtual Innovation Boot Camp is a professional development workshop aimed at building communication and entrepreneurial skills relevant to supporting innovation in both the private and public sectors. Sessions will include information applicable to commercializing ideas, using technology for social applications, communicating with stakeholders, refining a pitch, and more. There will be customized sessions for mentors led by NSF and AACC leadership that will offer information on NSF funding opportunities for community colleges.
- 2. Can entrants be from any community college anywhere in the U.S.? What about students pursuing two-year degrees at colleges offering four-year degrees as well? All student participants must be pursuing a two-year degree at a college in the U.S. or its territories at the time of entry.** Two-year degree-pursuing students at colleges offering both two-year and four-year degrees are eligible to participate as long as they are pursuing a two-year degree at the time of entry. Teams may not consist of students from multiple institutions.  
  
The only exception to the above requirement is if a team member registered as a participant in the 2020 CCIC. As the 2020 CCIC was cancelled, registered team members for the 2020 competition can reapply to be a team member for the 2021 CCIC even if no longer attending a community college. Individuals reapplying must be part of a college team that has members that are currently enrolled in their alma mater and in a two-year degree program; play an active role on the team; and be approved by the faculty and/or administrative mentor to participate.
- 3. What is meant by “team” for the purpose of the content? Teams must consist of 2 to 4 student team members and a faculty or administrator who can serve as a team mentor.** NSF and AACC encourage teams to be diverse and multidisciplinary (comprised of engineers, STEM technicians, marketing and business students, humanities students, and more).
- 4. Can multiple teams from the same college apply?** **Yes.** Up to five teams from a single community college can apply. However, no more than one team from an individual college would be selected to advance to the finalist round attending the Virtual Innovation Boot Camp.
- 5. Can a student be on multiple teams?** **No.** Each student can only be on one team.
- 6. Can a faculty or administrator mentor serve on multiple teams?** **No.** Each faculty or administrator can only mentor one team.
- 7. Is there a specific grant point average that qualifies a student to be “in good standing” at their institution?** **No.** We rely on the educational institution to determine if a student is in good standing.
- 8. Must the mentor teach a STEM discipline?** **No.** Mentors can be full-time, part-time faculty or administrators that specialize in and/or oversee in any discipline at their college.
- 9. Once an entrant submits a video, can they revise or replace it with another video prior to the April 20 deadline?** **No.** Once you submit a video to the competition, it is considered a final submission and cannot be revised or replaced. However, you can save your entry on the challenge platform and edit it many times before officially submitting.

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- 10. How will finalists be notified? All registered team members will be notified via email by early-May if they have progressed to the finalist round.**
- 11. Will information on the Virtual Innovation Boot Camp be sent directly to finalists? Yes.** Finalists will be contacted in early-May and provided with detailed information pertaining to attending the Virtual Innovation Boot Camp, participating in two preparatory webinars, and conducting assignments to prepare for the Virtual Innovation Boot Camp including detailed guidelines on developing posters for the virtual poster session.
- 12. What if a team member is unable to attend the Virtual Innovation Boot Camp? All finalist team members, including the mentor, are required to attend the Virtual Innovation Boot Camp.** However, on a case-by-case basis, AACC will consider issues that may arise that prevent team members from attending.
- 13. How will the first, second, and third place team winners be notified and awarded? Winning teams will be announced at the end of the Virtual Innovation Boot Camp.** Each member of the first, second, and third place winning teams will be mailed a check upon completion of necessary tax forms, a few weeks following the Boot Camp. The winners will be announced via an AACC and NSF news release and well as displayed online on the challenge website.

## CCIC At-a-Glance

### Who?

Teams of 2 to 4 community college students with an interest in STEM innovation, entrepreneurialism, and in making a difference; a faculty or administrator team mentor.

### When?

Submit from February 18 – April 20, 2021. Required attendance at a Virtual Innovation Boot Camp for student finalists and team mentors to be held June 14-17, 2021.

### Where?

[www.aaccinnovationchallenge.com](http://www.aaccinnovationchallenge.com)

### Why?

To foster the development of crucial innovation, communication, and entrepreneurial skills to initiate real-world change; network with national student teams, STEM leaders, industry representatives, and entrepreneurs; and compete for cash awards for your STEM innovation!

### Questions?

Contact the CCIC team at [CCIC@aacc.nche.edu](mailto:CCIC@aacc.nche.edu)

Follow the Challenge:  
**#CCICChallenge2021**