

# 2026



## COMMUNITY COLLEGE INNOVATION CHALLENGE



### **STUDENT TEAMS ENCOURAGED TO APPLY.**

Attend an **Innovation Boot Camp** in Washington, D.C., build the skills necessary to carry invention from idea to society-benefitting innovation, showcase your project on a national stage in front of **industry** and **STEM stakeholders**, and compete in a pitch competition for **cash awards!**

# 2026

# COMMUNITY COLLEGE INNOVATION CHALLENGE

## Who?

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

## Where?

Get details and enter at: [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 professionals, and entrepreneurs; and compete for **cash awards for your STEM innovation!**

## When?

**January 21, 2026**

**Challenge opens, accepting submissions**

**April 3, 2026**

**Submissions due by 11:59 PDT**

**Late April 2026**

**Up to 12 finalist teams are announced**

**April–June 2026**

**Finalist teams prepare for Innovation Boot Camp**

**June 8–11, 2026**

**Innovation Boot Camp in Washington, D.C**

**June 11, 2026**

**First, Second, and Third Place teams are announced**

## Questions?

Send them to  
[CCIC@aacc.nche.edu](mailto:CCIC@aacc.nche.edu)  
Follow the challenge  
[#CCICChallenge2026](https://twitter.com/CCICChallenge2026)

