

# 2026

# COMMUNITY COLLEGE INNOVATION CHALLENGE

Advancing Student Innovation & Impact



## INNOVATION BOOT CAMP JUDGING CRITERIA

Performing proficiently during two activities will be essential to securing a spot in the winner's circle at the Innovation Boot Camp. One of these activities is the Student Innovation Poster Session & Reception on Tuesday, June 9. The other is the Team Pitch Presentation on Thursday, June 11. The overall effectiveness that finalist teams demonstrate through the combination of these two activities will determine the winner of this year's Challenge. In other words, a team must perform well at both activities in order to win.

A distinguished panel of judges will adjudicate both events using criteria that assess the finalist teams' abilities in skillfully representing their innovations during the Student Innovation Poster Session, and in convincingly conveying the merits, value, and potential of their ideas during the Team Pitch Presentation. These two events will be scored separately. The two scores will then be weighted—30% for the Student Innovation Poster Session and 70% for the Team Pitch Presentation—and combined to produce a total score.

Judges will be considering the following criteria during both activities.

### For the Student Innovation Poster Session

#### Does the team's poster:

- Identify a societal need;
- Demonstrate how the innovation satisfies this need;
- Communicate the innovation's novelty, feasibility, and market viability; and
- Substantiate the innovation's ability to produce measurable benefits?

#### Do team members through their engagement with visitors:

- Exhibit enthusiasm;
- Knowledgeably represent the innovation;
- Convincingly champion their innovation's value and significance;
- Effectively explain the science behind, and the uniqueness of, their innovation;
- Make clear how society benefits;
- Proactively engage and respond to visitors' questions and/or identified interests or needs;
- Express optimism and vision;
- Reflect positively on their team and their institutions?

### For the Team Pitch Presentation

#### Does the pitch presentation:

- Clearly identify the societal problem, need, or opportunity that the innovation addresses;
- Concisely explain how the idea solves this problem, meets the need, or pursues the opportunity;
- Succinctly convey the benefits the idea can or will produce;
- Tell a complete story that persuasively signals the idea's novelty, feasibility and market viability;
- Reveal the idea's uniqueness and differentiates it from other existing or possible approaches;
- Actively urge the listener to support further development of the idea; and
- Acknowledge that the innovation results from the collaboration and contributions of the individual team members?