

2026

# COMMUNITY COLLEGE INNOVATION CHALLENGE

Advancing Student Innovation & Impact



## Orientation to the 2026 CCIC Boot Camp

May 1, 2026

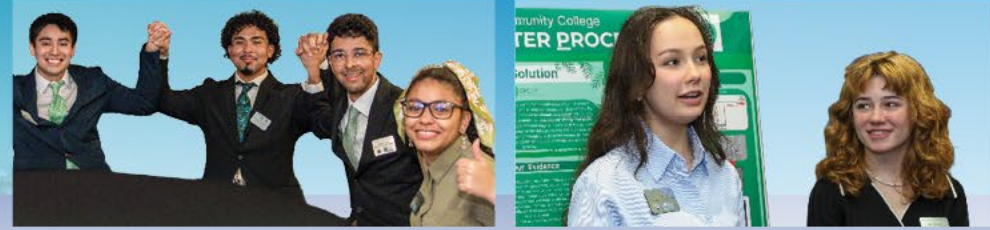
1:00 – 2:30 pm Eastern



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## Presenters



**Ellen Hause**  
Associate Vice President,  
Academic and Student  
Affairs, AACC



**Courtney Larson**  
Program Manager, ATE  
AACC



**Joe Schreiber**  
Adjunct Professor &  
General Manager  
Temple University Television

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## Content

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Finalist Teams

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Boot Camp Overview

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Boot Camp Content & Expectations

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Registration, Hotel & Travel

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Student Innovation Poster Session

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Team Pitch Presentations

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Other Boot Camp Questions

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Resources



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## Finalist Teams

**De Anza College, CA**

Project: The Micro-Buoy

**Henry Ford College, MI**

Project: SuClara: Intelligent Water, Tailored to You

**Hudson County Community College, NJ**

Project: Hybrid Immersion Cooling for Long-Term AI Sustainability

**Pasadena City College, CA**

Project: Cortexa: Brain Powered Art

**Passaic County Community College, NJ**

Project: Transforming Roads with Fly Ash: A Sustainable Future

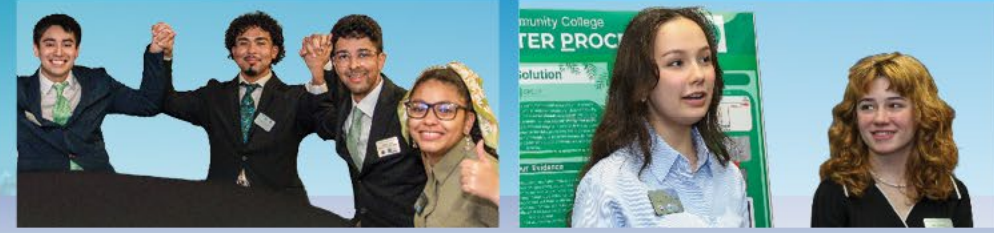
**Pellissippi State Community College, TN**

Project: 3D Modeling Accessibility for Visually Impaired Students

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## Finalist Teams

**Perimeter College at Georgia State University, GA**  
Project: Enhanced Drain Obstruction Prevention (EDOP)

**San Jacinto College, TX**  
Project: TrustLine: Helping Seniors Stay Safe from Digital Scams

**Shawnee Community College, IL**  
Project: GroundTruth: Predicting Food Desert Risk Before It Happens

**Springfield Technical Community College, MA**  
Project: Hydroshield

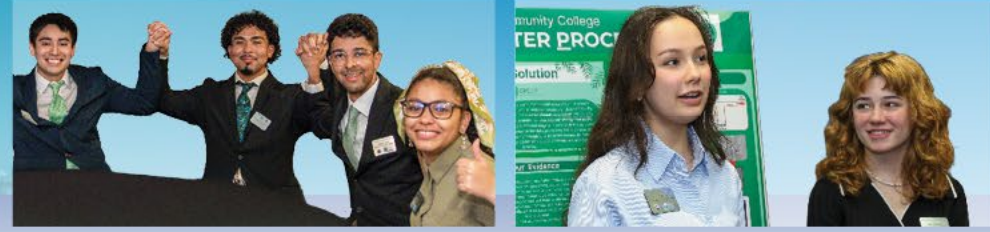
**SUNY Broome Community College, NY**  
Project: Portable Quantum Lab

**Wake Technical Community College, NC**  
Project: GridGuardAI - Predicting Failure Before It Happens

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## Boot Camp Overview

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What is it?

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Where is it?

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When is it?

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Who attends?

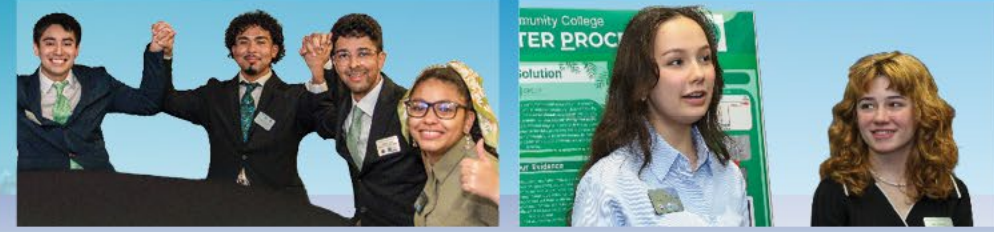
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Why attend?

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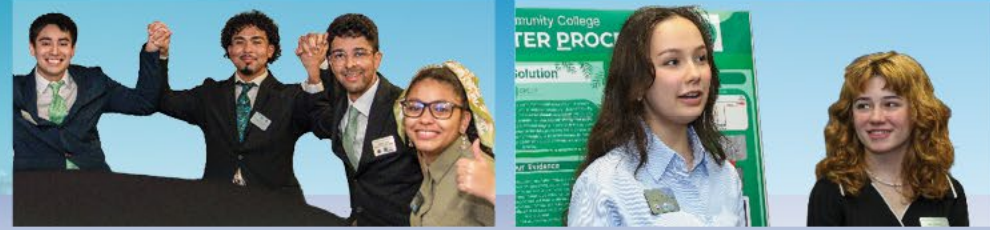
## What is it?

- Validate STEM-based Solutions for real-world problems from local to global concern
- Technical Assistance & Hands-On Learning to Build Skills
  - Innovation
  - Entrepreneurship
  - Strategic Communication

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## Where is it?

The Royal Sonesta Hotel, Washington, DC



## When is it?

June 8-11, 2026

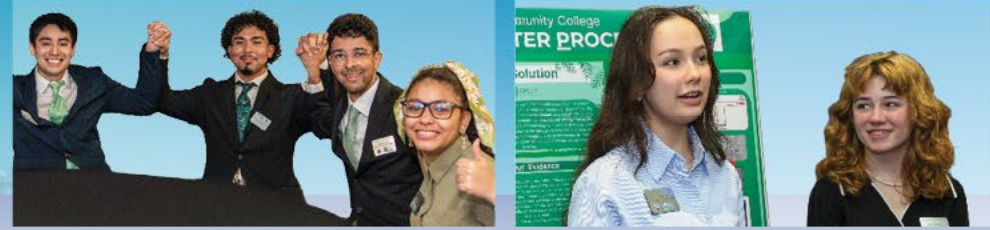


The Boot Camp starts at 11:00 a.m. on June 8 and ends at 5:00 p.m. on June 11.

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## Who attends?

Community  
College Student  
Teams

Faculty &  
Administrator  
Mentors

Presenters in  
Entrepreneurship  
& Communication

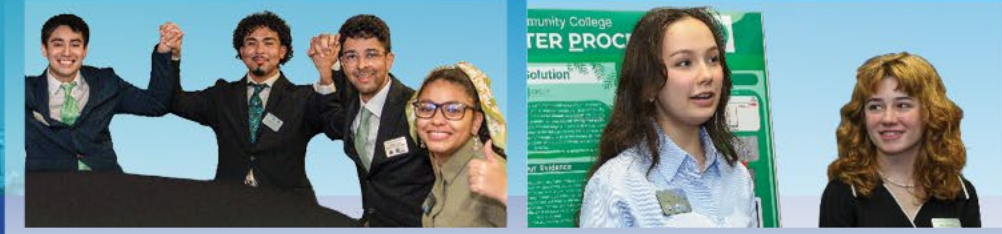
Panel of CCIC  
Past Student  
Participants

NSF & AACCC  
Program Staff

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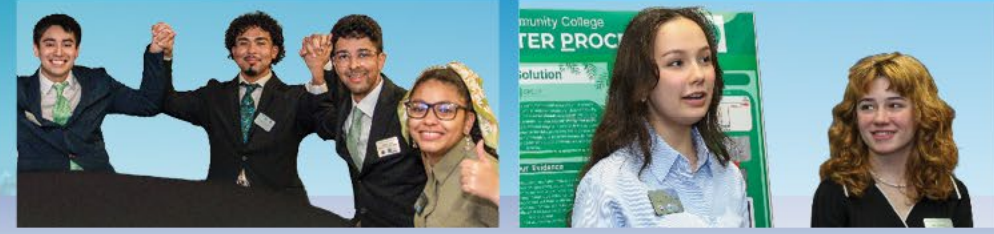
## Why attend?

(aside from being required to do so)

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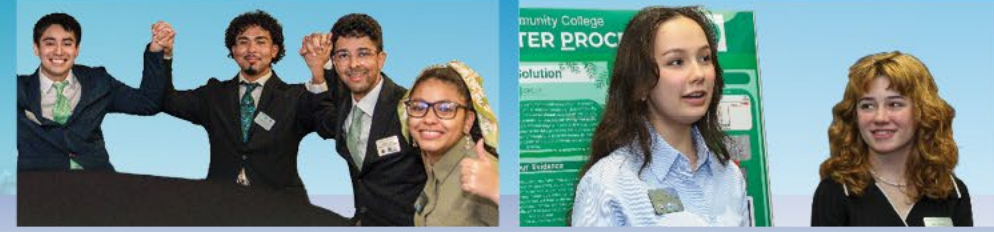
### Boot Camp Content Partners

- Grant Warner, Managing Partner of guru innovation group, LLC and DC I-Corps
- Joe Schreiber, Adjunct Professor & General Manager, Temple University Television
- Daria Hall, Senior Vice President, Fenton Communications
- Martha Parham, Senior Vice President, Public Relations, AACCC
- NSF Program Officers, AACCC, & other staff

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# Finalist Hub

- Access to Pre-Boot Camp Webinars
- Travel & Logistics Information
- Boot Camp Agenda, Guidelines, & Materials
- Bios of Instructors, Coaches, Judges, & Finalist Teams
- <https://aaccinnovationchallenge.com/hub>

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### Monday, June 8

- 11:00 pm – Welcome & Introductions
- 12:00 pm – Lunch & Alumni Panel
- 2:00 pm – Power of Stories
- 3:00 pm - Setting the Stage & Team-Based Design Thinking
- 3:00 pm – Faculty & Administrator Mentor Meeting
- 5:00 pm – Key Takeaways and Wrap Up
- 5:30 pm – Walking Tour of Dupont Circle Area (Optional)

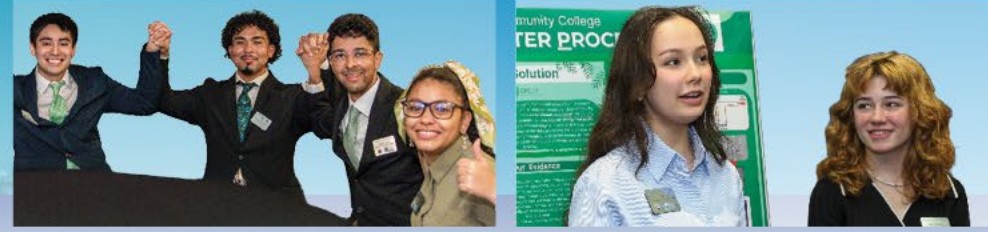
### Tuesday, June 9

- 8:00 am – Networking Breakfast
- 9:00 am – Signaling Innovation
- 10:30 am – Customer Discovery
- 12:15 pm – Lunch
- 1:15 pm – How to Memorable and Persuasive
- 2:15 pm – Capitol Hill Launchpad
- 3:00 pm – Bus Departs
- 4:30 pm – Student Poster Session & Reception on Capitol Hill
- 7:00 pm – Bus returns

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## Wednesday, June 10

- 8:15 am – Breakfast
- 9:00 am – Capitol Hill Debrief
- 9:15 am – Guided Mock Customer Discovery Interviews
- 9:30 am – NSF Info Track for Mentors
- 11:00 am – Guided Mock Interviews Debrief
- 11:45 am – Lunch
- 12:45 pm – Masters of Marketing & Perfecting Your Pitch
- 2:45 pm – Team Coaching & Working Sessions
- 5:00 pm – Day 2 Wrap-Up

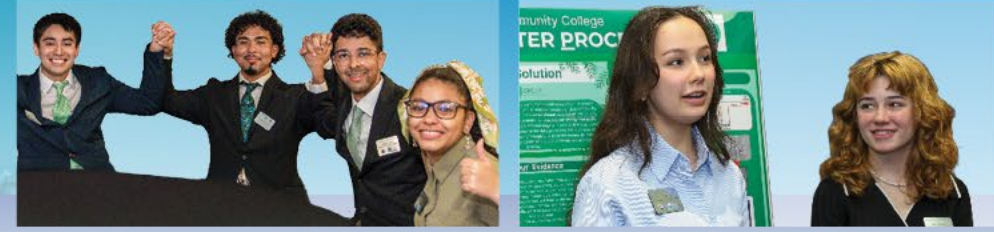
## Thursday, June 11

- 8:15 am – Breakfast
- 9:00 am – Final Day! Agenda Overview
- 9:05 am – The IP Road Ahead
- 9:45 am – Judging Criteria Review
- 10:15 am – Team Pitch Rehearsals & Working Lunch
- 12:30 pm – Team Pitch Presentations
- 3:00 pm – Award Deliberations & Boot Camp Evaluations
- 3:30 pm – Awards Ceremony & Reception
- 5:00 pm – Adjourn

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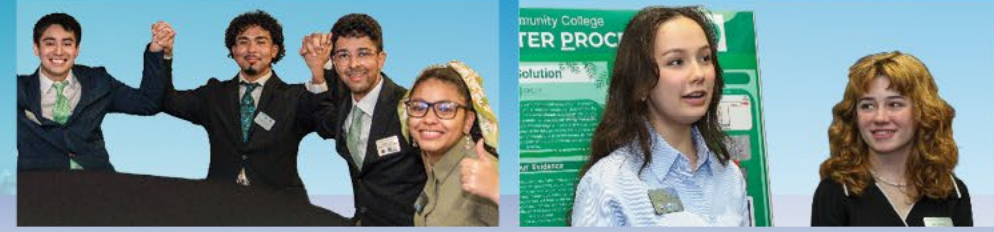
## Registration, Hotel & Travel

- Registration
- Hotel Reservations
- Travel Arrangements

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# Registration

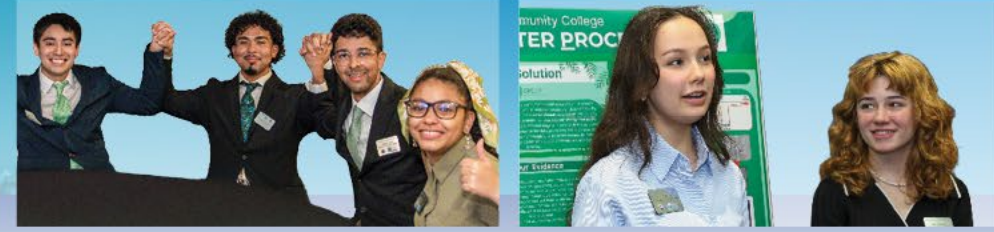
- No registration fees
- Required for students & faculty mentors
- Liability, Photo/Recording release
- Register by May 8, 2026

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

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# Hotel Reservations

- Lodging provided at The Royal Sonesta Hotel in Washington, DC
- Hotel Costs:
  - All participants – up to 5 nights complimentary
- Master Account & Incidentals
- Complete Participant Registration & Hotel Reservation Form

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## Hotel Reservations

- Rate for additional days: \$279/night
- Please do not make your own hotel reservations, AACCC will make all hotel reservations for each team.
- Hotel confirmations, changes, & cancellations through AACCC

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# Travel Arrangements

- AACC supports the cost of travel for all participants and mentors.
- Make your flight arrangements with World Travel Services to charge directly to AACC.
- Airports & Ground Transportation

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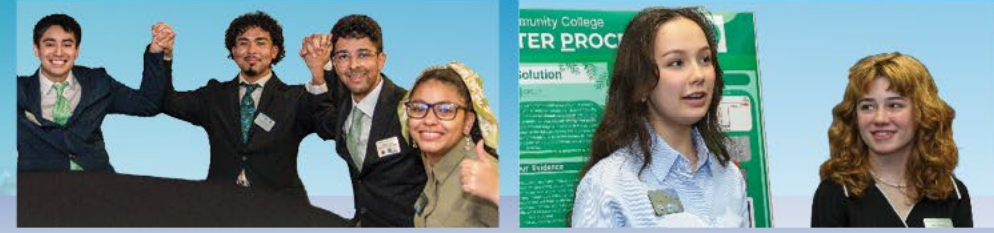
# Travel Reimbursements

- Reimbursable expenses include:
  - Airfare (billed directly to AACCC through World Travel)
  - Train or bus fare
  - Mileage allowance of \$0.725 per mile
  - Airport Taxi/Shuttle or public transportation
  - Baggage Fees
  - Parking
- Rental cars not usually allowable & require pre-authorization
- Travel reimbursement forms

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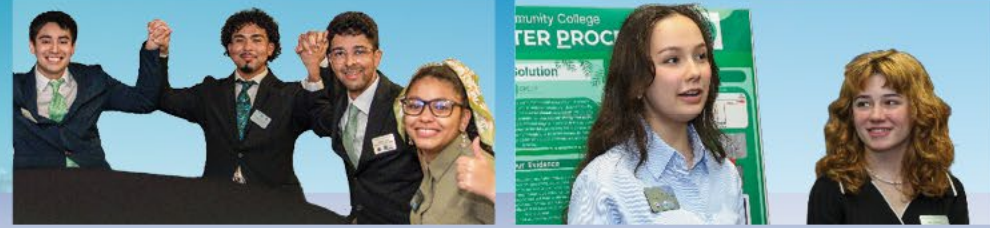
# Travel Reimbursements

- Meals not offered by the Boot Camp reimbursed at GSA rates:
  - \$23 breakfast
  - \$26 lunch
  - \$38 dinner
- Boot Camp Meals:
  - Monday, June 8 – Lunch
  - Tuesday, June 9 – Breakfast, Lunch, Light Reception
  - Wednesday, June 10 – Breakfast, Lunch
  - Thursday, June 11 – Breakfast, Lunch, Light Reception

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## Questions?



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## Judging Criteria



Two activities will be judged to select the top three winning teams at the Boot Camp:

Student Poster Session (30%)

Final Pitch Presentation (70%)



Events will be scored separately by a distinguished panel of judges.

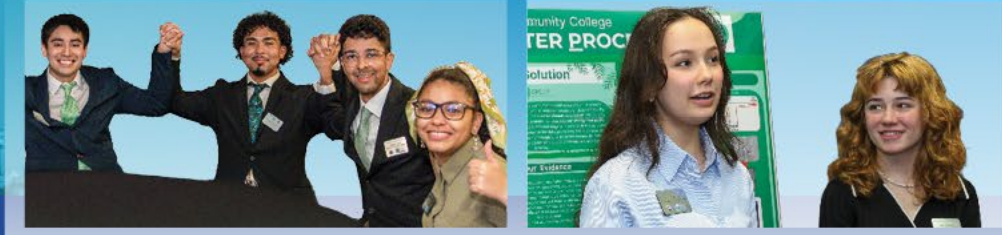


A team must perform well at both activities to win the Challenge.

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### Does the team's poster...

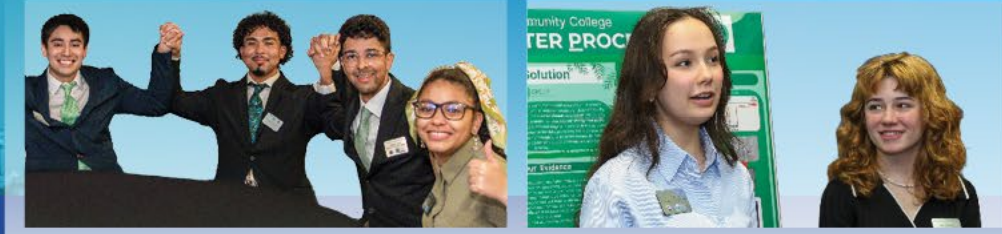
For the  
Student  
Innovation  
Poster  
Session

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

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### For the Student Innovation Poster Session

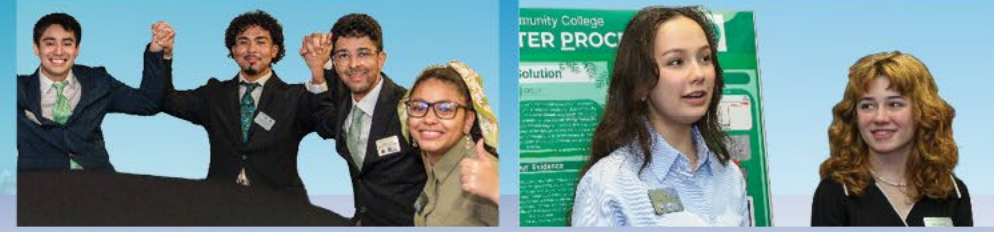
#### Does the team ...

- Exhibit enthusiasm;
- Knowledgably represent their 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 & institutions

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### For the Team Pitch Presentation

#### Does the team...

- 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?
- Actively urge the listener to support further development of the idea?
- Tell a complete, persuasive story that clearly conveys the innovation's value and viability?

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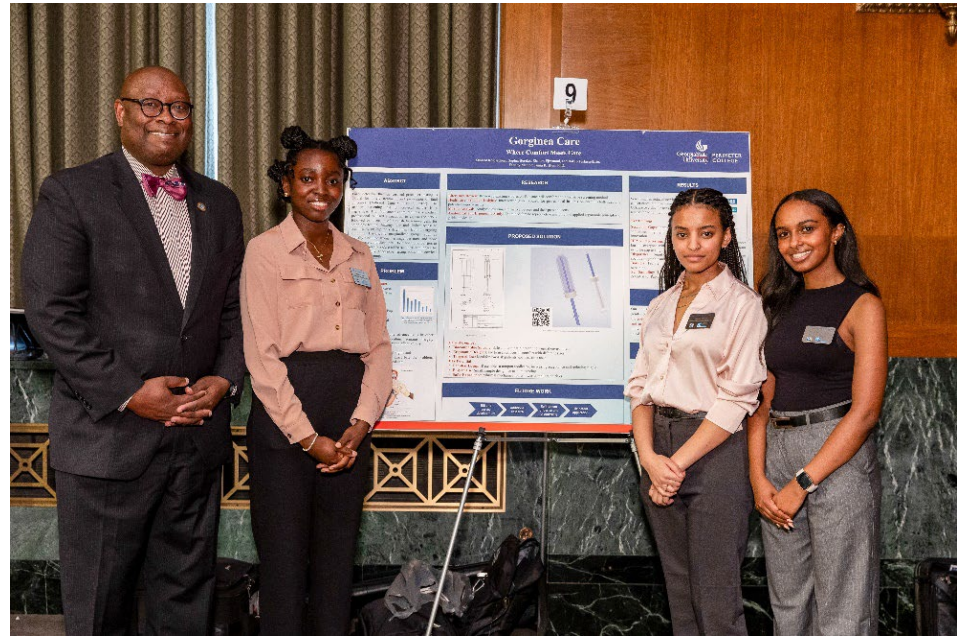
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## Student Innovation Poster Session

Share your innovation  
on Capitol Hill!



# Stakeholder Engagement



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## Student Poster Session

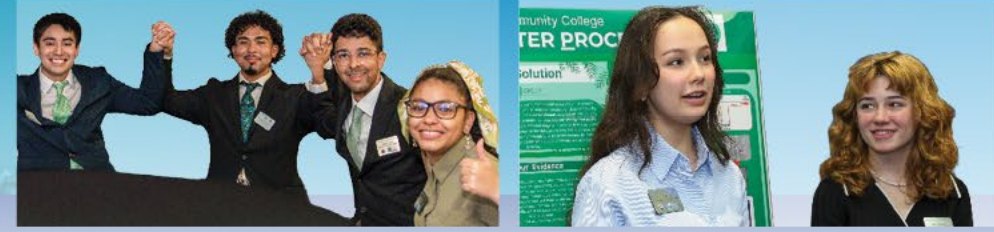
Tuesday, June 9 – 3:00 – 7:00 p.m. EDT

- 3:00 p.m. Buses Depart the Hotel
- 3:30 p.m. Teams Arrive & Set-Up Posters
- 4:30 p.m. Student Innovation Poster Session
- 6:30 p.m. Teams Take Down Posters
- 7:00 p.m. Buses Return to Hotel

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## Poster Content

- Title of project, team name, and name of community college
- The team's identified problem
- Research steps taken to study the problem
- Two or three main results from research
- Proposed innovation/solution

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## Poster Preparation

- Poster Dimensions – posters must fit within the 36”x 48” display board space. Posters do not need to fill that space, but they cannot exceed the 36”x 48” display board area.
- Team confirmation forms due May 8!

## Poster Preparation

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Presenters are responsible for mounting their posters to the display boards during the set-up period and removing them as soon as the session ends.

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Posters should be printed on thin poster paper or laminated paper to ensure it can be affixed to the display board and stay in position for viewing.

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Push-pins and Velcro will be available in the poster session area for mounting posters.

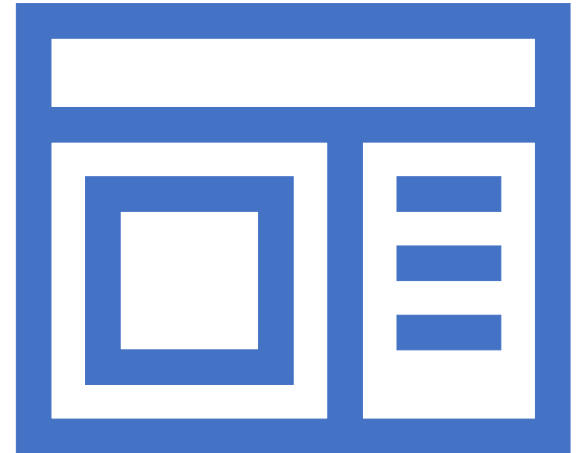
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All materials must be prepared (printed) and “poster ready” in advance of arriving to the CCIC and ready to be affixed to the poster board. Printers will not be available.

# Poster Formatting



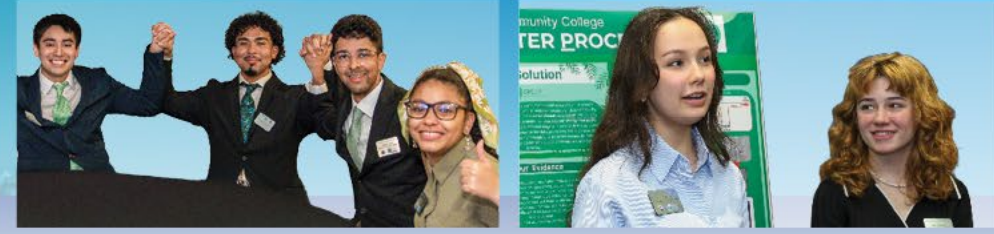
- **Design** – Top of poster, large easy-to-read title of project, team name, name of college
- **Font** – No less than 20-point font; read from 3' away
- **Visuals** – Use of photographs, graphs, illustrations
- **Student Team Member Original Work**
- **Poster Session Team Confirmation Form due 5/8**



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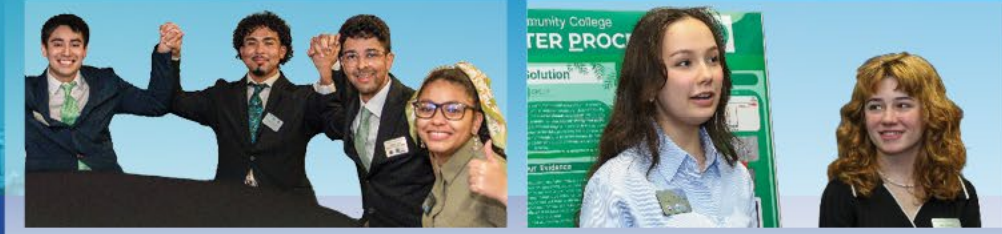
# Final Presentation Guidelines

- Boot camp team pitch presentations on June 11 from 12:30 – 3:00 p.m.
- Students will present as a team & may choose to identify one main spokesperson or share the presentation time
  - Presentation may not exceed five (5) minutes
  - Judges will call upon any team member to answer questions following the presentation.
- Each team may supply one 16:9 PowerPoint slide that best exemplifies its innovation to use as a backdrop.

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## Resources & Expectations

Visit the Resources Page of the Finalist Hub  
to access Customer Discovery videos from the

The Mid-Atlantic I-Corps Hub Video Classroom

[Intro to Lean Startups \(3:40\)](#)

[Customer Needs and Hypotheses \(2:46\)](#)

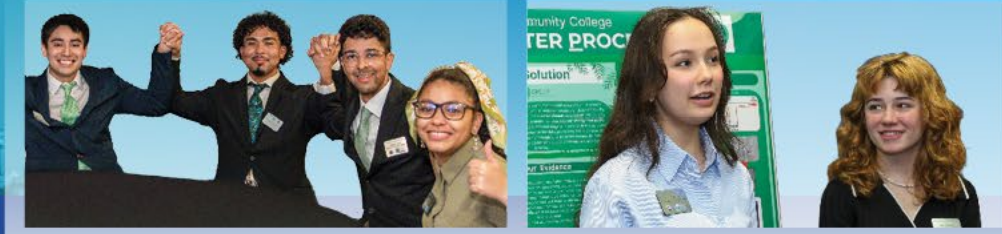
[Interview Preparation \(7:19\)](#)

[Best Practices for Customer Discovery \(6:37\)](#)

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## Other Boot Camp Questions

- Boot Camp Attire – Casual
- Capitol Hill Reception & Final Pitch Presentation
  - Business Casual to Business Attire
- Evaluation
  - Pre- and Post-event surveys

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## Important Dates

- Orientation to Customer Discovery Webinar  
Friday, May 1, 2026 - 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.(EDT)
- Participant Registration & Hotel Reservation Form  
Friday, May 8, 2026
- Team Confirmation & Project Abstract Form  
Friday, May 8, 2026
- Team Presentation Single PowerPoint Slide Deadline:  
Thursday, June 11, 2026, by 11:00 a.m.

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

Email: [ccic@aacc.nche.edu](mailto:ccic@aacc.nche.edu)

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Questions?