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EMERGING ISSUES PRIZE FOR INNOVATION FINALISTS CHOSEN

Student teams awarded \$1,000 for their innovative community improvement ideas

RALEIGH, N.C., Dec. 4, 2012 — Ten North Carolina high school and college student-teams have been chosen as finalists for the Emerging Issues Prize for Innovation for their community improvement ideas.

In its third year, the Prize for Innovation, presented by the Institute for Emerging Issues at NC State, challenges students across the state to unleash their imagination, and work collaboratively to create an innovative product or tool that may benefit their communities.

“The submissions from high school and college student teams across North Carolina showcase the ability of our students to think critically and creatively,” said A. Hope Williams, President of North Carolina’s Independent Colleges and Universities, and a judge for the Prize. “The proposals illustrate a clear understanding of the importance of manufacturing in turning great ideas into products to improve the lives of our state’s citizens and of people around the world. “

Nearly 30 teams of high school and college students from across North Carolina – east to west, rural to urban, from community colleges, public and private institutions – submitted innovative ideas for the development of products that could benefit their classmates, their neighborhoods, or even a group within their community such as the elderly, veterans, or the homeless. Of these submissions, five teams from each high school and college categories have been declared finalists by a panel of judges consisting of North Carolina leaders in education, government and business.

High school finalist teams:

- “Sole H2O” - Havelock High School
- “Sirocco Computer Cleaner” - North Vance High School
- “The Chest Top” - Hillside High School
- “Surface Water Collection” - NC School of Science and Mathematics
- “Fluid Demonstration System for Electrical Circuits” - NC School of Science and Mathematics

College finalist teams:

- “Noire Naturals” - UNC-Charlotte
- “Pax Backpacks” - Davidson College
- “No Sweat” - UNC-Chapel Hill
- “Plastic Propaganda” - NC State University
- “Sun Tape” - Wake Forest University

For more information on the Prize finalist groups and their projects, [click here](#).

“It’s refreshing to see the passion in our state’s young people,” said Kendall Hageman, Education Policy Manager for IEI. “These projects highlight the bright future of both innovation and manufacturing in North Carolina.”

Finalist teams are now tasked with producing videos explaining their ideas in more detail. Beginning February 4-2012, IEI will call on North Carolinians to vote for the idea they believe to be the best in each category. The two winning teams will each receive a \$5,000 grant to put their ideas into action. Chosen teams will be announced at the [February 11-12 Emerging Issues Forum in Raleigh](#). This year’s Forum focuses on how changes in North Carolina’s manufacturing sector are revolutionizing North Carolina’s economy.

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About IEI

IEI is a think-and-do tank at NC State University, focused on tackling big issues that affect North Carolina’s future growth and prosperity. From energy, to fiscal modernization, to improving our systems of higher education, IEI takes the lead in convening state leaders in business, higher education and government to address these issues early to prepare for future challenges and opportunities. To learn more about IEI, please visit www.emergingissues.org.