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WINNERS ANNOUNCED FOR EMERGING ISSUES PRIZE FOR INNOVATION

High school and college student teams awarded \$5,000 for innovative community improvement ideas

RALEIGH, N.C., Feb. 12, 2013 — Winners of the Emerging Issues Prize for Innovation contest have been announced at the 2013 Emerging Issues Forum in Raleigh. Chosen from ten finalist teams, the winners in both divisions were selected by public voting from February 4 through February 11. High school and college student-teams from across North Carolina competed, and there were over 12,450 votes cast in this year's competition.

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 Prize for Innovation winning team in each division will receive a \$5,000 grant to put their idea into action.

The high school division winning team for the 2013 Emerging Issues Prize for Innovation is the Sirocco Computer Cleaner from North Vance High School. According to their team submission, Sirocco Computer Cleaner is

“an innovative computer cleaner, called the Sirocco, is designed to dislodge and remove dust interfering with a computer’s critical functioning parts, such as its fan. Any group regularly uses computers in its day-to-day activities, such as the public school system, businesses, medical facilities, nonprofits and more, will benefit from the Sirocco Computer Cleaner. Its goal is to lower computer malfunction rates while also saving money typically spent on computer repair.”

The college division winning team for the 2013 Emerging Issues Prize for Innovation is: “No Sweat” from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. According to their team submission, “No Sweat” is:

“an innovative, self-contained iontophoresis device that allows for specific control of water temperature used to deliver therapeutics. The hot water produced within the device will open the pores increasing the transdermic flow between the skin layers, allowing for faster medical treatments with less drugs, greatly reducing pain. Three groups in particular demonstrate a need for “No Sweat” including diabetics, amputees, and those that suffer from excessive sweating (hyperhidrosis).”

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. For more information on the Emerging Issues Prize for Innovation contest and all the competing teams, [click here](#).

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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.