

UNC-CH TEAM WINS \$50,000 SECU PRIZE FOR INNOVATION DUKE TEAM RUNNER-UP WINS \$25,000

Click [here](#) for UNC-CH team, SECU president, UNC-CH Chancellor Folt, Gov. McCrory
Click [here](#) for Duke team, Gov. McCrory, Fmr. Gov. Hunt

RALEIGH, NC (Feb. 12, 2015) – The Institute for Emerging Issues has awarded the \$50,000 Grand Prize in its SECU Emerging Issues Prizes for Innovation competition to a team from UNC-Chapel Hill. The Prizes, sponsored by the State Employees Credit Union Foundation, reward student teams that channel their creativity and talent to address critical issues affecting North Carolina’s future economic competitiveness and well-being.

The \$50,000 Grand Prize went to *Seal the Seasons*, a for-profit venture run by Patrick Mateer and William Chapman. *Seal the Seasons* works to increase access to healthy food across North Carolina while bolstering the economic viability of small-scale farms. *Seal the Seasons* strives to create a market for blemished crops and to extend the local food season from harvest to year-round by processing, freezing, and distributing this produce. *Seal the Seasons* partners with local farmers, food aggregators, and potential customers.

IEI named a Duke University team, *Canopy Scientific*, as winner of the \$25,000 First Runner-Up Prize. Led by students Aaron Berdanier and Ramsey Meigs, *Canopy Scientific* employs sophisticated forest biometric data collection and analysis, satellite imagery, laser-equipped small drones, and modern statistical models that accurately measure forest carbon to design carbon offset projects that pay landowners to preserve forestland.

IEI made three other cash prize awards in the SECU Prizes competition.

Two “Fan Favorite” awards, each for \$10,000, went to *FreshSpire Inc.*, a team with members at North Carolina State, UNC-Chapel Hill, and East Carolina; and to *Ellerbe Creek Litter Trap*, a Duke University team.

IEI awarded its \$5,000 Emerging Idea award to *Lettuce Learn*, a team from Appalachian State University.

For more information on all SECU Emerging Issues Prizes for Innovation winners, visit emergingissues.org and <http://iei.ncsu.edu/engage/secu-emerging-issues-prize-innovation/2015-secu-emerging-issues-prize-innovation-finalists/>

Background on the SECU Emerging Issues Prizes for Innovation

The Prize empowers teams of two to five students (undergrads or grad/professional students at any of N.C.’s two- and four- year colleges and universities) to help solve a problem affecting one or more of these areas: the economy, education, the natural and built environments, and health.