Student Innovator Challenge

The Innovator Challenge is an annual OHSU student idea competition, intended for student-led concepts or technologies. Participants receive individualized training and mentorship for the duration of the competition to develop their pitch and innovation, compete to win prizes, and advance to the InventOR Statewide Collegiate Finals.

WHO SHOULD ENROLL?

- Any OHSU student or team of students who has an idea or would like to learn more about innovation and entrepreneurship

WHY SHOULD YOU ENROLL?

- Win up to $30k in prizes
- Learn to effectively communicate your science to the public and learn presentation skills for diverse audiences
- Gain practical experience developing your innovation, pitch, and prototyping – a great resume builder!

ENROLLING A PROJECT

Students and projects from all disciplines are welcome, no prior experience necessary. Registration is open annually from September through March; we encourage you to register early to receive the full benefits of the competition. Projects must be related to health, medicine or bioscience/biotechnology.

COMPETITION ADVANCEMENT

- Guided Training & Mentorship
- Innovator Challenge Pitch Competition
- PSU's Lab2Market Weekend
- InventOR Statewide Finals

- Two teams advance, win $500 prototyping grant each
- One team advances, wins $2000 prototyping grant
- Chance to win up to $30,000 in prizes

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EXPECTATIONS AND RESOURCES

- Participants will receive individualized mentorship and training to develop their innovation throughout the competition.

- Mentors will be matched with participating teams based on background expertise and personalized team needs, and will include guidance from the Executives-in-Residence Program offered by OHSU’s Collaborations and Entrepreneurship office.

- Participants are expected to complete an Invention Disclosure. This form allows OHSU’s Technology Transfer office to understand the nature of your invention to better assist you in developing and/or protecting your intellectual property.

- Teams of 2+ are required to advance to the InventOR finals; the Innovator Challenge does not require teams to participate.

- A physical prototype is required to compete in the InventOR finals; the Innovator Challenge is solely a pitch competition and does not require a prototype.