

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. Details on our [website](#).

WHY SHOULD YOU ENROLL?

- Win up to \$30k in cash prizes (early prototyping grants and prizes at the InventOR finals)
- 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; we encourage you to register early to receive the full benefits of the competition training and mentorship. Projects must be related to health, medicine or bioscience/biotechnology, but can be in any stage of development.

CONTACTS

To learn more or schedule a consult, please contact:

Melissa Mudd, M.P.H.
Innovation Alliance Manager, OCTRI
muddm@ohsu.edu

Christopher Sagar
Project Coordinator, OCTRI
sagar@ohsu.edu

Aditi Martin, Ph.D.
Sr. Director,
Collaborations & Entrepreneurship
martiad@ohsu.edu

REGISTRATION

Registration is **OPEN** through
March 1, 2026 for the 2026
competition.

REGISTER NOW

OHSU INNOVATOR CHALLENGE PITCH COMPETITION

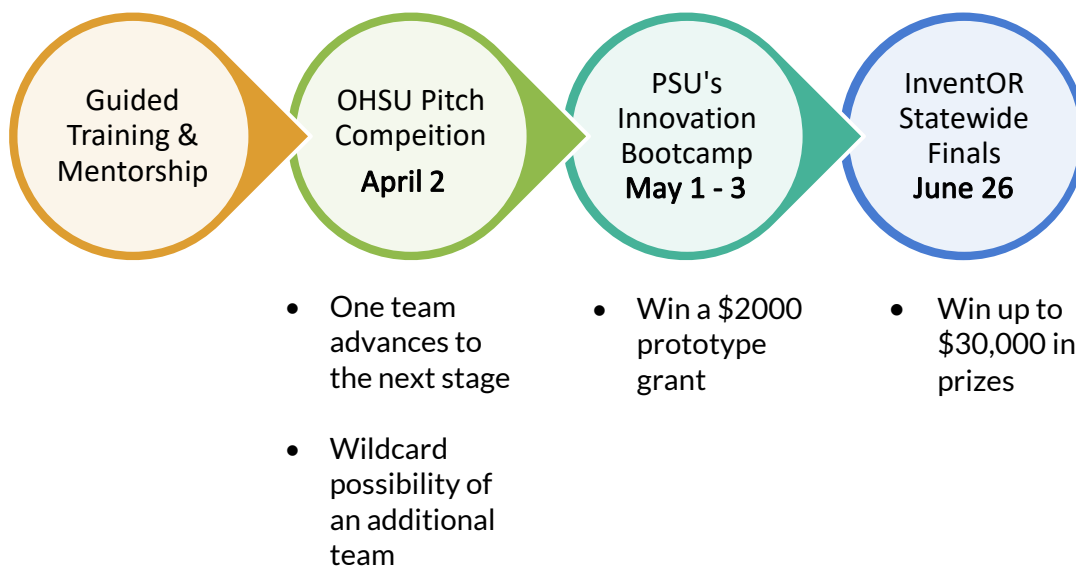
April 2, 2026
Virtual
1:00p.m. – 3:00p.m.

INVENTOR STATEWIDE FINALS

June 26, 2026
OSU-Cascades (Bend, OR)

[InventOR Website](#)

COMPETITION ADVANCEMENT



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 [Entrepreneurs-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.
- One team advances to the InventOR finals.
- Potential Wildcard opportunity for one additional team to advance to the InventOR Finals.
- Teams of two (at least 1 OHSU student) are required for the InventOR Finals.
- A physical prototype is required to compete in the InventOR finals; at minimum this can be a tangible component. The OHSU Innovator Challenge is solely a pitch competition and does not require a prototype.