



INAUGURAL



PRESIDENT'S INNOVATION CHALLENGE



UNLV

APRIL 6, 2022



UNLV | OFFICE OF
THE PRESIDENT

UNLV | GRADUATE
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UNLV | ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT

BLACK FIRE
INNOVATION

Nevada Governor's Office of
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Empowering Success

Thank you for joining us for the inaugural President's Innovation Challenge, a team competition to encourage social and business entrepreneurship that helps address major challenges of our day in Southern Nevada.

COVID-19 changed the world.

And in Las Vegas, it achieved the unimaginable: it closed the Strip.

When the city's famous lights went off in 2020, it looked like a zombie movie. However, Las Vegas did not shy away from the challenge – they realized they need more resilience, economic diversity, and ingenuity.

For UNLV's inaugural President's Innovation Challenge, this was the task: invent a creative solution to Las Vegas' economic diversity challenge. How do we make Las Vegas' economy more resilient, diversified, and sustainable for all Las Vegas?

The President's Innovation Challenge started in the fall with 16 interdisciplinary teams, each with at least one undergraduate and one graduate student; and after the first round of presentations, nine teams advanced to today's final round, with the potential of winning the \$20,000 grand prize.

Team presentations will follow remarks by:

- Dr. Kate Korgan, Senior Vice Provost, UNLV
- Dr. Bo Bernhard, Vice President of Economic Development, UNLV; Executive Director, International Gaming Institute
- Dr. Robert Rippee, Executive Director, Black Fire Innovation

THE TEAMS

AERO AI

Team Motto: Piloting the next generation of 3D data libraries with drones

Team Members:

- Osarodion Victory Igbinobaro, Master of Architecture
- Richard Bergstrom, Entrepreneurship BSBA
- Godson Ebenezer Adjovu, Civil and Environmental Engineering Ph.D.
- Glenn Nowak, Hospitality Administration Ph.D.

Team Mentor/Faculty Advisor:

- Glenn Nowak, Associate Professor, Architecture, UNLV
- Venkatesan Muthukumar, Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering, UNLV

Gallus Ovum

Team Motto: Progression with compassion

Team Members:

- Kacey Dai, Secondary Education B.S.
- Richard Ho, Psychology B.A.
- Serena Dimazana, B.S. in Engineering; Electrical Engineering
- Annie Hur, Nursing B.S.
- Roman Reid, Educational Psychology Ph.D.

Team Mentor/Faculty Advisor:

- Dr. Patricia Greene, Ph.D., Professor Emerita, Babson College
- TaChelle Lawson, President, FIG Strategy & Consulting
- Robert Rueter, Entrepreneur in Residence for the Office of Economic Development, UNLV

Southern Nevada Health Initiative

Team Motto: World Class City, World Class Health

Team Members:

- Mary McDonough, Doctor of Medicine
- Louisa Heske, Doctor of Dental Medicine
- Peter Grema, Economics BSBA and Real Estate BSBA
- Ryder Hankins, Marketing BSBA and International Business BSBA

Team Mentor/Faculty Advisor:

- Dr. Stowe Shoemaker, Professor & Dean, Hospitality, UNLV

The Rebelutionaries

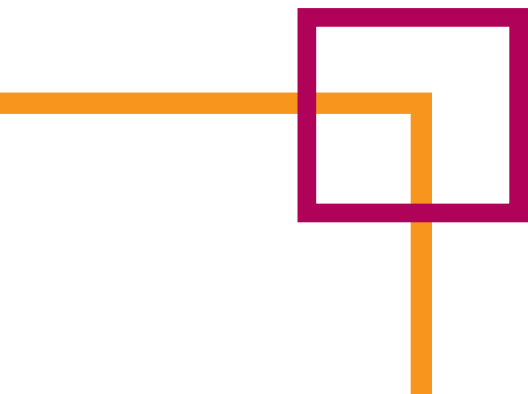
Team Motto: Cultivating an informed and inclusive future

Team Members:

- Melikabella Shenouda, Higher Education M.Ed.
- Angelica Shenouda, Gender and Sexuality Studies B.A.
- Jacina Stone-Alapai, Information Systems BSBA
- Coby Carner, Marketing BSBA

Team Mentor/Faculty Advisor:

- John Starkey, M.Ed., Senior Academic Advisor, UNLV Lee Business School
- Jeremy Houska, Ph.D. (UNLV '10), Director of Educational Effectiveness, University of La Verne



A More Sustainable World

Team Motto: For strength, flexibility, and a healthier planet

Team Members:

- Andres Rodriguez Lombeida, Public Affairs Ph.D.
- Alejandro Rodriguez Lombeida, Master of Business Administration
- Anyelina Rodriguez Lombeida, Pre-Business (Economics)

Team Mentor/Faculty Advisor:

- Dr. Lisa Davis, Associate Director, MBA Programs, UNLV
- Qing (Tiffany) Huang, UNLV alumni

Rebel 4

Team Motto: Nothing about us, without us

Team Members:

- Michelle Janeo, Couple and Family Therapy M.S.
- Orestes Marquetti, Communication Studies M.A. (upcoming)
- Salvador Almanza, Master of Business Administration
- Brianna Lomax, Public Health B.S.

Team Mentor/Faculty Advisor:

- Janice Pluth, Associate Professor, Health Physics and Diagnostic Sciences, UNLV

ReFuel

Team Motto: We strive to reuse plastics instead of burying them in landfills where they have lost value and destructive impacts on the environment.

Team Members:

- Garret Pardee, Management Information Systems M.S.
- Christine Nolan, Public Affairs Ph.D.
- Angie Diaz Tremillo, Physics B.S.

Team Mentor/Faculty Advisor:

- Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward, Assistant Professor, Early Childhood, Multilingual, and Special Education, UNLV



Hyperloop Nevada

Team Motto: Driving a new mode of transport

Team Members:

- Petar Matejic, B.S. in Engineering; Mechanical Engineering
- Drake Joseph, Physics B.S. and B.S. in Engineering; Electrical Engineering
- Meena Ejjada, Civil and Environmental Engineering Ph.D.
- Roy Margallo, Economics BSBA and Finance BSBA

Team Mentor/Faculty Advisor:

- Dr. Pushkin Kachroo, Director of Transportation Research Center, UNLV
- Tom Rafferty, Co-CEO, Optx

Esenjays

Team Motto: For the Greater Good

Team Members:

- Shaimaa Abdelhaleem, Geoscience Ph.D.
- G Liu, Quantitative Finance M.S.
- Jacob Gross, Accounting BSBA
- Jonathan Kim, MBA and Quantitative Finance M.S.
- Nour Benjelloun, Philosophy B.A.

Team Mentor/Faculty Advisor:

- Greg Moody, Associate Professor, Lee Professor of Information Systems, Program Director of the M.S. in Cybersecurity Program, UNLV
- Jacimaria Batista, Professor, Civil & Environmental Engineering, UNLV

THE JUDGES


Special thanks to today's judges:

- Jan Jones Blackhurst, Mayor of Las Vegas, 1991-1999; Chief Executive in Residence, Black Fire Innovation
- Jason Gastwirth, President of Entertainment, Caesars
- Peter Guzman, CEO of the Latin Chamber of Commerce
- Nadia Hansen, Digital Transformation Executive, Salesforce; Former CIO, Clark County
- Chris Heavey, Ph.D., Executive Vice President and Provost, UNLV
- Yong Li, Ph.D., Lee Professor of Entrepreneurship, Research Director for Troesh Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, UNLV
- John Krieger, Esquire, Dickinson Wright
- Shaunt Sarkissian, CEO, XCo
- Nicole Thomas, Educational Psychology Ph.D. Student, Graduate Assistant, GPSA President
- Rama Venkat, Ph.D., Dean, Engineering, UNLV
- Frank Woodbeck, Executive Director for Grants and Special Projects, College of Southern Nevada
- Caren Yap, International Business and Business Marketing B.S. Student, Student Body President, CSUN

HONORS JAZZ TRIO

Special thanks to UNLV's Honors Jazz Trio for providing today's music:

- Micah Smith, Piano (Bachelor of Music in Jazz and Commercial Music)
- Edoardo Lacala, Bass (Master of Music)
- Zach Mejia, Drums (Bachelor of Music in Jazz and Commercial Music)



UNLV appreciates the leadership and support of our Nevada System of
Higher Education Board of Regents.

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