

2023 UAlbany Blackstone Launchpad Innovation Competition April 22nd, 2023

Blackstone LaunchPad at UAlbany is excited to announce its 8th annual Innovation Competition on April 22nd, 2023. This event will also feature 2 rounds where students will pitch their innovative ideas and new ventures to a panel of judges. The competition promises to be an excellent opportunity for aspiring entrepreneurs to showcase their skills and ideas to potential investors and industry experts. The Innovation Competition will feature prize money for 13 different awards.

Competition Format:

The 1st round of the competition will consist of 4 categories where teams will pitch to judges and compete against other teams in the same categories. The pitch will be up to 10 minutes and each team will have 5 minutes to answer questions from the judges. The top 2 teams from each category will win prize money. The top team from each category will advance to the finals. 2 additional teams will be selected to advance to the finals based on the judges and organizing team's discretion for a total of 6 teams pitching in the final round. The final round will also consist of a 10-minute pitch and 5 minutes of questions from the judges and audience. The final round is open and other teams will be in the room while pitching. Teams that are unable to attend in-person and have a legitimate reason, as determined by competition organizers, may pitch via zoom, or submit a video pitch, to be played during their time. Email Rick Neff (rneff@albany.edu) to request a video or zoom pitch.

Important Dates:

Monday, April 17, 2023 At 11:59pm	Register on StartupTree through the following link: Feed University at Albany (startuptree.co) . You must create a profile on StartupTree to register
Friday, April 21, 2023	Pitch decks are due. They must be in PowerPoint, PDF, or google slides. Email pitch decks to Carson Weng (cweng2@albany.edu). If sharing, make sure it is not restricted
Saturday, April 22, 2023 From 9:30am-3pm	Live, in-person event. Please report to ETEC by 9:15am 10:00am to 12:00pm - 1 st round pitches. 12:00 – 12:30 Lunch, deliberation, and announcement of 1 st round winners. 12:30 to 2:30 – Final pitches 2:30-3:00 – Deliberation and announcement of winners



Location:

The UAlbany Blackstone LaunchPad Innovation Competition will take place at the Entrepreneurship and Emerging Technology Complex (ETEC) on the UAlbany main campus.

<https://www.albany.edu/about/our-campuses/etec>

The address for ETEC is 1220 Washington Ave. Albany, NY 12226. The entrance to ETEC is off of Campus Access Road. The event will be held in room 149/151 and additional conference rooms for each track.

Do I qualify to participate?

In order to qualify to participate in the Virtual Innovation Competition, at least 1 member of your team must be a current **student (undergraduate, graduate, or PhD candidate) of the University at Albany.** Teams may consist of non-students, students from other universities. You must also have a current idea, business, or venture that you are actively working on. If the company has equity partners (LLC, C-corp, etc.) then a majority of the equity must be owned by a currently enrolled student at UAlbany.

Registration to participate in the competition:

The application for the Innovation Competition is posted on StartupTree:

<https://albany.startuptree.co/>

Teams must create a profile on the Albany StartupTree. Many universities use the platform and profiles are not interchangeable.

Competition posted on StartupTree: [Blackstone LaunchPad at UAlbany Innovation Competition | University at Albany \(startuptree.co\)](#)

Direct Registration link: [Enter | Blackstone LaunchPad at UAlbany Innovation Competition \(startuptree.co\)](#).

Teams must be logged in to StartupTree in order to complete the registration. The registration includes basic information on the team and their idea or venture. Pitch decks shall be emailed to Carson Weng (cweng2@albany.edu) by noon on Friday, April 21st. Pitch Decks shall be in PowerPoint or PDF format.

Categories

The 2023 UAlbany Blackstone Launchpad Innovation Competition will consist of 4 categories.

UAlbany Blackstone LaunchPad reserves the right to categorize startups as we deem fit. Categories will be determined based on the number and diversity of entrants. Categories may include, but not limited to:

- Government / First Responder / Defense
- Education
- Social Enterprise / Not for Profit
- Social Networks / Community
- Products
- Services
- Technology



Final Round

Judges will evaluate all entrants and provide scoring to the Blackstone LaunchPad team. The Blackstone LaunchPad at UAlbany team will determine the top 6 teams. Every effort will be made to follow the scoring from the judges, but the scoring alone will not be the deciding factor. The final round will be held on March 26th from 3-5 pm. Startups will have 7 minutes to present their venture and 5 minutes to answer questions from the judges. Teams must be available for the entire 2 hours and be ready to present. If there are extenuating circumstances, we will work with the team to schedule a 20-minute time during the finals that they are available to present.

Prize Money

The top 3 teams of the final round will win prize money. The first-place award will be \$2,000, second place shall be \$1,000, and third place shall be \$500. Prize money is based on donations to the competition. Blackstone LaunchPad at UAlbany reserves the right to alter prize money. The Blackstone LaunchPad at UAlbany team will determine the top 3 teams. Every effort will be made to follow the scoring from the judges, but the scoring alone will not be the deciding factor. The winners and 2nd place teams from each track will be awarded \$500 and \$250 respectively. Additional prizes are awarded for excellent pitch from an underclassman led team and excellent pitch from an underrepresented founder led team.

Feedback

Judges feedback will be provided upon the end of the competition.

Intellectual Property

By applying, winning, or competing in the Virtual Innovation Competition, student startups **DO NOT** lose any right to their intellectual property. If Intellectual Property is not owned by the startup, a current license is not required to participate. Do not publicly disclose intellectual property that is not yet protected. This is a innovation competition, not an emerging technology competition. Judging criteria is based on the benefit the technology provides for the customer, not the technology itself.

Media Materials

Startups are required to submit media materials for promotion and use leading up to, during, and after the competition. The University at Albany reserves the right to use these materials. Materials may include:

- Startup Descriptions
- Startup/Startup member photos
- Product or prototype photos (if applicable)
- Company Logo

Required Forms for Prize Payments

Each startup that wins will be required to provide appropriate documentation to receive award payments. No prizes can be awarded without the required forms submitted. Prize payments will be issued to either the startup or the startup's founder

Please be prepared to submit the following:

- A W-9 and/or EIN forms for US startups or individuals or a W-8 BEN forms for International startups or individuals.
- A "Use of Funds" form
- A University at Albany Disbursement Form

Forms will be emailed to the winners after the competition.

Conditions

The University at Albany reserves the right to modify these rules at any time leading up, during, or after the competition. By participating in this competition, the student agrees to abide by these rules and conditions.