

Dr. Peterson
InVenture VIP Reception

6 p.m. Wednesday, April 1, 2015

Welcome. We're happy to have everyone here for one of the great nights of the year at Georgia Tech. The InVenture Prize competition has affectionately been called "American Idol for Geeks," but no one will think of them as geeks when they launch their businesses.

Welcome to Chancellor Hank Huckaby, our legislators, past finalists, donors to the program, and Georgia Public Broadcasting President Teya Ryan.

Welcome also to ACC representatives attending: Here to see the InVenture Finals and attend a conference tomorrow to begin planning for a possible ACC-wide innovation competition.

InVenture has grown into the largest competition of its kind in the country. It was created in 2009 and organized by Georgia Tech faculty as an interdisciplinary innovation competition open to all Georgia Tech undergraduate students and recent graduates. InVenture brings together student innovators from all academic backgrounds across campus in an effort to foster creativity, invention, and entrepreneurship. We partner with Georgia Public Broadcasting for the finals, and GPB does an excellent job transforming the contest into an exciting televised competition.

InVenture celebrating student creativity and invention: I think you'll be amazed at some of the creations that our students have come up with. They've identified problems and have come up with solutions that require not just technical knowledge but a large share of creativity, interdisciplinary collaboration, and business acumen.

Impact on undergraduate student culture: InVenture is one of the ways we create a culture of innovation at Georgia Tech. We have several student competitions throughout the year.

Recognition of program donors

Recognition of John and Mary Brock (who have RSVP'd) as leaders of Campaign Georgia Tech

K12 outreach and growth — the InVenture Challenge

CREATE-X - An exciting new program which builds on this success and others in some innovative new ways

Introduce Gary May as executive lead on both CREATE-X and InVenture. He will speak and then introduce Chris Klaus.

Dr. Peterson

Onstage Welcome: InVenture Prize

7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 1, 2015

Today marks my sixth anniversary at Georgia Tech, and I can think of no better way to celebrate than to be here with you tonight. The 2015 InVenture prize had more than 500 students (526) enter the competition. Through the fall we offered a series of workshops on everything from innovation and customer discovery, to idea valuation and making a pitch. We also hosted a panel of last year's finalists so they could offer advice to current competitors.

Additionally, 19 teams were awarded up to \$500 each in prototype funding to assist with project development. Ultimately 157 students on 55 teams registered and competed in the competition's preliminary round — a gallery-style format in Klaus Atrium with about 90 judges including faculty, research scientists and staff. From there, 29 semifinalist teams were selected, and each competed in a "pitch" format competition, basically "SharkTank" style. Each team came on stage and had 4 minutes to make their pitch before a panel of judges. This resulted in the six finalist teams that we will see tonight.

We couldn't do without the sponsors for this year's InVenture Prize. They include —

- The InVenture Challenge @ Georgia High Schools – courtesy of The Betty and Davis Fitzgerald Foundation and IronCAD
- The People's Choice Award (\$5,000) - courtesy Center of Innovation for Manufacturing
- 2nd Place Award (\$10,000) – courtesy of the Inter-institutional Academic Collaborative of the Atlantic Coast Athletic Conference
- 1st Place Award (\$20,000) – courtesy of Intel.

I understand that the teams you'll be seeing in the finals have their cheering sections here. Who's here for:

- EQIP
- Shortweb
- FlameTech Grill Defender
- Haplit
- QuantaBrew
- OculoStaple

We have representatives from most of the ACC Universities in the audience (13, including Tech). They're here to see the InVenture Finals and attend a conference tomorrow to begin planning for a possible ACC-wide innovation competition.

We also run a K-12 school version of the InVenture Prize, known as the InVenture Challenge @ Georgia High Schools. Welcome to all in attendance, including the following schools that participated this year and are attending the InVenture finals:

Cheatham Hill Elementary
Collins Hill High School
Mountain View Elementary
Due West Elementary
Griffin High School
Murdock Elementary School
Charles Drew High School
Chestatee High School
Rockdale Magnet School for Science and Technology
Oconee County High School
North Oconee High School

Thanks again everyone for being here. Now let's get on with the competition!