

Dr. Peterson

VIP Reception — InVenture Prize

6-7 p.m. Wednesday, March 26, 2014, Ferst Center

Welcome to our 6th annual InVenture Prize Competition.

Sponsors for this year's InVenture Prize include:

- The InVenture Challenge @ Georgia High Schools – courtesy Jackie Stradley of The Betty and Davis Fitzgerald Foundation
- The People's Choice Award (\$5,000) - courtesy of John Zegers with Center of Innovation for Manufacturing
- 2nd Place Award (\$10,000) – courtesy of the Inter-institutional Academic Collaborative of the Atlantic Coast Conference
- 1st Place Award (\$20,000) – courtesy of Intel.
- We also run a mini-InVenture Prize, known as the InVenture Challenge @ Georgia High Schools. We'd like to welcome back to campus Amanda Baskett, a 2007 Georgia Tech Public Policy graduate who co-founded the InVenture Challenge @ Georgia High Schools. Amanda is now a teacher at Rockdale Magnet School, which participated in this year's InVenture finals. Schools that participated this year and are attending the InVenture finals are:
 - Chestatee High School,
 - Collins Hill High School,
 - George P. Butler High School,
 - Griffin High School,
 - Meadowcreek High School,
 - North Oconee High School,
 - Osborne High School,
 - and Rockdale Magnet School, previously mentioned.
- Other K-12 schools attending (but not part of the InVenture Challenge) include Eastvalley Elementary School, Griffin-Spalding County Schools, Holy Spirit Preparatory School, Kell Robotics Innovation Center, and Mountain View Elementary.

- Other post-secondary schools are following our lead and creating their own InVenture type programs. The University of Florida held their first competition this year. We have several faculty members from Tennessee Tech with us here tonight learning from our program. We welcome you.
- Tonight's event is also part of the Atlanta Science Festival, which runs March 22-29. It is a weeklong celebration of local science and technology, and the first of its kind in the metro Atlanta area. It includes over 100 events, most of them free. Founded by Emory University, the Georgia Tech and the Metro Atlanta Chamber, the festival is collaboration among diverse community partners planning a collection of events for young people, families, and adults.

Dr. Peterson

InVenture Prize Competition Welcome

7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 26, 2014, Ferst Center

- Welcome to the Sixth Annual InVenture Prize Competition. We extend a special welcome to those participating in the InVenture Challenge at Georgia High Schools who are attending InVenture finals:
 - Chestatee High School,
 - Collins Hill High School,
 - George P. Butler High School,
 - Griffin High School,
 - Meadowcreek High School,
 - North Oconee High School,
 - Osborne High School, and
 - Rockdale Magnet High School.
- I would also like to recognize other K-12 schools attending (but not part of the InVenture Challenge):
 - Eastvalley Elementary School,
 - Griffin-Spalding County Schools,
 - Holy Spirit Preparatory School.
 - Kell Robotics Innovation Center, and
 - Mountain View Elementary
- The 2014 InVenture prize had 560 students sign up for the competition, the largest ever.
- In the six years we've had InVenture Prize, there have been 2,400 participants.
- This is the largest competition of its kind in the country.
- Through the fall we offered a series of workshops on innovation, motivation, intellectual property, and making a pitch. We also hosted a panel of last year's finalists so they could offer advice to current competitors.
- Additionally, some teams were awarded up to \$500 in prototype funding to assist with project development. Ultimately 156 students, or 55 teams, registered and

competed in the competition's preliminary round — a “show and tell” format in Klaus Atrium with about 90 judges, including faculty, research scientists, staff, and others.

- From there, 25 semifinalist teams were selected, and each competed in a “pitch” format competition, basically “SharkTank” style. Each team came on stage and had five minutes to make its pitch before a panel of judges. This resulted in the current six finalists.
- One of the things I am most impressed with is the success of past participants. Last year's second-place winner Erika Tyburski with AnemoCheck. Erika and AnemoCheck also won first place, best video and best global solution in the Georgia Tech Ideas to Serve competition and received funding for prototyping by Global Center for Medical Innovation (GCMI). At last check, she was closing clinical assessments at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta and Winship Cancer Institute and was in clinical testing in Angola. She was recognized by the Metro Atlanta Chamber and Atlanta Business Chronicle as “Startups to Watch.”
- We wish Erica and all of our entrepreneurs much success, including those of you competing this evening. All of you are have the potential to change the world.
- I understand that the teams you'll be seeing in the finals have their cheering sections here. Who's here for ... (call out team names):
 - The Better Walk Crutch
 - Enlighten Music Trainer
 - Safi Choo Toilet
 - Sleepwell Sleepwear by Lights Out
 - Sucette Smart Soother
 - Upsadazy
- I would like to share a closing note: The classroom is the passageway to the working world. Bill Gates, in his annual letter to stakeholders, focuses specifically on innovation as the single most important determining factor for a positive or negative economic future. Gates maintains that when considering global

economic issues, it is innovation that “can make the difference between a bleak future and a bright one.”

- With all of these bright minds at work, I’m convinced we have a bright future ahead.