INNOVATION IDEAS CHALLENGE
SPRING 2023

REIMAGINE OUR WORLD!
Got ideas, insights, or new perspectives? Share them!

SICTR INNOVATION PROGRAMMING HOSTS
Social Innovation and 17 United Nation Sustainable Development GOALS

SUPPORTING:

start something

COLLEGES’ INITIATIVES: THE FUTURE OF...

How might we [re] imagine...?

The INNOVATION IDEAS CHALLENGE is an open call for participation for all students of all majors around campus interested in questioning, investigating, and creating new ideas for our future. This year, the Student Innovation Center aims to focus on work around social innovation, social justice, care, environmental crisis, community engagement, public good, social changes, and wellbeing.

1. CHALLENGE GOAL
The INNOVATION IDEAS CHALLENGE aims to map out the complexity of all our current societal problems, the immense changes we are experiencing in the world, and how we all connect with each other, within our communities and to our environments. We are highly interested in proposals that could be applied to many tomorrows. This challenge is an opportunity to help strengthen our ISU Innovation+Entrepreneurship [I+E] colleges’ initiatives with a portfolio of ideas and proposals heading for a collaborative future, as we all prepare and reimagine our futures together.
We invite everyone to join and share their insights, their small ideas, their biggest challenges, and best practices – stories, ideas, and examples rich in diversity and imagination, but also focused on spotlighting its impact on the future.

Help us spotlight, share, and scale up your greatest experiences and most imaginative ideas! Have you discovered something that helps everyone to be more connected or empowered, despite current social challenges or unsettled times? Do you have a brilliant idea for helping people feel better, live better, or grow together better? Whether you have an idea or are designing a new concept with others, share what you got! We need your innovations to move towards lasting changes that survive not only now, but deep into the unknown future.

By Summer 2023, your team solution could be developed further, and someday in the near future implemented at Iowa State. Check out how we can support you after this semester contest.

2. HOW TO PARTICIPATE
An innovation ideas challenge is a collaborative creative incubator, during which inventive minds can share their most wicked challenges and create innovative work with multi-disciplinary team members. Teams can: talk through, collaborate, define, and reframe the challenge; develop a series of exercises/activities to understand the opportunities ahead; conceptualize and sketch potential options/designs to further explore; and share/present a broad diversity of project ideas and solutions for the future. To join in just reach out to our team contact [see list at the end] or your college’s contact.

JOIN US ANY THURSDAY at 11am, or HEAD FOR OUR FINAL on MAY 4th during the kick-off of ISU IGNITE Innovation Showcase Week!

The Challenge will start with a selection of warm-up sessions and some active experiments, then spend Thursdays together in-person at the Student Innovation Center on a series of mini-workshops, team activities, and creative sessions. And then, allow for early-stage thoughts from the first weeks to be fully developed into conceptual proposals during mid semester on your own time - but to be presented Thursday, May 4th in person to a full panel of judges from all around the campus and the world. The winning team will be announced during the ISU IGNITE AWARDS Ceremony by the ISU senior leadership.
3. THEMES
We have identified some domains where we can start to help guide our Ideas Incubator. They are intentionally aligned with the Innovation Fund’s core question and speak to the social impact we are aiming to have in our own communities and world-wide. After a few sessions in our Incubator, we might tackle the future of CARE, the future of ENERGY, the future of MOBILITY, the future of EDUCATION, the future of FOOD SECURITY, the future of CAPITAL, the future of...?


4. HOW IDEAS INCUBATORS WORK
This IDEAS CHALLENGE Open Call is about sharing insights, potential solutions — ones already gaining traction or starting to flourish around you. All the work developed during the semester does not need to be perfect or fully polished at the end as this is not a ‘product development’ accelerator. In fact, early entry allows teams to iterate and improve on proposals through community engagement with our experts, partners, and faculty during our Thursday sessions. Participants are encouraged to build off and expand on others’ concepts, examples, and best practices around the world.

Drafts will be presented at ISU pitch-offs (February 2023), during mid-semester via pecha-kuchas (March 2023), and during the final presentation at IGNITE week (May 2023). The aim is to have a selection of team-based Big Ideas to be presented to a dolphin-tank (not shark tank) panel constituted by industry partners, community stakeholders, and venture leaders at end of the semester during IGNITE (4th May). This final presentation will be paired up with the Student Innovation Fund challenge, where incentives can go up to $15,000 in project prizes.

The winning team[s] will be invited by the Student Innovation Center and ISU Senior Leadership to work on and submit final pieces to development stage over the Summer of 2023, supported both by the Student Innovation Center and Innovation Fund. Depending on the execution level after the summer, it is expected that during the academic year of 2023/2024, the winning solutions will be put forward for implementation, and if attenable, at university-level.
5. EVALUATION CRITERIA
After the final presentations on Thursday 4th May at 9pm-12:30pm in person and broadcasted at the Student Innovation Center, each submitted solution will be evaluated by at least 6 external judges, as well as by other Challenge’s faculty Advisors and Mentors. They will review submissions using the following criteria:

- **Relevance**
  - Does it clearly relate to the IDEAS CHALLENGE of reimagining our future? [Brief Goal]

- **Impact**
  - If it is to be implemented, does it have evidence of potential implementation? [Evidence]
  - If not implemented, does it hold great potential for impact? [Potential for Impact]
  - Does it make our communities more accessible and inclusive for all? [Equity]

- **Adaptability**
  - Would it work in different contexts? [Transferable]
  - Is the solution easily implementable without significant resource investment? [Feasible]
  - Are potential communities or entities positioned and capable of implementing the innovation idea? [Implementation]
  - Does it inspire use? [Inspiration]

Judges will use a scale rating system to review submissions, and judges’ scores will be totaled and averaged for each submission. The evaluation criteria are intended to help identify the solutions with the greatest potential to qualify for the Improve Phase [Summer 23] and Execution Phase [Academic Year 23/24].

6. INCENTIVES
We are humbled by students who take time to take charge of their education discourse and submit proposals to the University and external innovation ecosystem. Your ideas have the potential to impact people and communities across campus, and across the world. We are offering participants the following types of support, with no expectation of additional work for all teams after the presentation day unless your winning entry shows interest and commitment to continue the project further:
Funding:
Each winning solution that gets featured in the IGNITE Week Showcase will receive financial support in case they decide to continue. At the Judging Panel’s discretion, diverse packages of financial support are expected, depending on team size and feasibility of implementation.

Audience with the ISU Senior Leadership:
Selected winning teams will be invited to a lunch/conversation with representatives from multiple ISU units to share their experience of the Challenge and report back on the collective findings.

Professional learning support:
Selected winning teams will automatically be enrolled in the ISU Student Innovation Fellowship program, with access to masterclasses, training and personalized career coaching sessions with some of our industry partners and ISU Innovators-in-Residence.

Classroom tools:
Selected winning teams and students will receive access to ISU CELT and the School of Education technology and educational experts.

Exposure to industry experts:
Selected winning teams will be visible to experts from 10+partner organizations from our ISU Innovation Board, focused on design, technology, and learning consultancy. Judges will be recruited from this partner group — along with the innovation community of the Innovate@IowaState ecosystem.

Media coverage and visibility:
Throughout the Challenge, all participants are elevated through coverage via IGNITE social media and ISU-SICTR online channels and internal publications. Ideas that make it into the Innovation Week Showcase will receive further promotion at the Iowa State Fair, and other Innovation venues.

RESOURCES
- World Economic Forum https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2021/01/future-of-education-4-scenarios/
- Future of Design Education https://www.futureofdesigneducation.org/
- Design Futures Council https://www.designfuturescouncil.com/
- Universal Design for Learning https://udlguidelines.cast.org/
  https://www.celt.iastate.edu/teaching/effective-teaching-practices/universal-design-for-learning-overview/
- Professional Association for Design https://www.aiga.org/aiga-design-futures
• Co-Designing Schools Toolkit https://www.codesigningschools.com/
• Design Thinking for educators https://page.ideo.com/design-thinking-edu-toolkit
• Nesta DIY toolkit https://diytoolkit.org/tools/theory-of-change/
• Purpose Project https://www.purpose.com/
• Design Dialogues https://www.news.iastate.edu/news/2020/12/16/design-dialogues
• Community Visioning https://www.communityvisioning.org/
• TED Ed Student Talks https://ed.ted.com/student_talks
• Jobs for the Future - Equitable Recovery Hub https://www.jff.org/
• Learning Reimagined: Radical Thinking for Equitable Futures https://www.imaginablefutures.com/learning-reimagined/
• Teachers Guild x School Retool https://www.teachersguild.org/
• Unschool https://www.unschools.co/the-unschool-community

CONTACTS:

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