



## BIG IDEAS CHALLENGE

### Gift & Engagement Opportunities

2024-25

**The University of Delaware seeks to engage supporters with a shared commitment to promoting conditions for the optimal health, well-being and thriving of all people.**

The *Big Ideas Challenge* brings together interdisciplinary teams of UD students to develop promising solutions to urgent real-world problems by conducting user-centered research, engaging in design-thinking, and creating and testing innovative prototypes. Problem domains relate to the vital conditions framework and include (1) climate change & environmental sustainability, (2) financial technology for advancing equity & economic well-being, and (3) health, well-being & performance. The Big Ideas Challenge focuses on local problems with the aim of developing solutions with the potential for global impact.

### Supporter Engagement Opportunities

Supporters play vital roles in the development and execution of the Big Ideas Challenge, including:

- Collaborating with UD leaders to identify the challenge area(s) of mutual interest,
- Providing feedback on initial problem framing before it is shared with teams,
- Hosting office hours to guide and mentor teams as they work to develop initial solutions,
- Judging submissions/presentations to select the most promising idea(s), and
- Providing stipend and project funding to support the most promising teams.

### Gifts Supporting the Big Ideas Challenge

All individual philanthropic support for the Big Ideas Challenge will be used to provide student funding awards and cover direct project expenses. Specific opportunities include gifts of:

- **\$2,000** – Funds one student stipend for full-time work on one of the most promising projects during Winter Session.
- **\$10,000** – Funds a team of up to 5 students for full-time work during Winter Session.
- **\$25,000** – Funds a Challenge problem tracks, including graduate student mentors for all teams, Winter Session funding for a 5-student team and follow on funding for the project.

### University of Delaware Roles & Responsibilities

University leaders are responsible for planning and executing the Challenge as a University-wide competition for creative, innovative and entrepreneurial students from all majors and degree programs, including undergraduates and graduate students. This includes active collaboration with industry partners to frame specific problems as well as recruiting and supporting student teams. The University covers the full cost of facility usage as well as faculty and staffing expenses.

### Timeline

July, 2024	Partnership agreements finalized
August, 2024	Initial problem/challenge statements finalized
September, 2024	Participant recruitment and program kick off
November, 2024	Presentations and “most promising” idea selection
January, 2025	Teams work full time on “most promising” idea(s)
April, 2025	Program finale & showcase

### Inquiries and Interest:

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