

# NEWS



ONE DUPONT CIRCLE, NW, SUITE 700, WASHINGTON, DC 20036 • [T] 202/728-0200 • [WWW.AACC.NCHE.EDU](http://WWW.AACC.NCHE.EDU)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
June 13, 2024

Contact: Martha M. Parham, Ed.D.  
Cell: 714-932-3694  
[mparham@aacc.nche.edu](mailto:mparham@aacc.nche.edu)

## **AACC, NSF Announce Winning Teams of 2024 Community College Innovation Challenge**

*Perimeter College at Georgia State University; Dallas College; and  
County College of Morris took home winning titles following presentations  
of their STEM innovations to address real-world challenges*

**Washington, DC** – Today, the [American Association of Community Colleges](http://www.aacc.nche.edu) (AACC), in partnership with the U.S. [National Science Foundation](http://www.nsf.gov) (NSF), announced the three winning teams of this year's [Community College Innovation Challenge](http://www.aacc.nche.edu/ccic) (CCIC).

The annual competition seeks to strengthen entrepreneurial thinking among community college students by challenging them to develop STEM-based solutions to real-world problems. It also enables students to discover and demonstrate their capacity to use STEM to make a difference in the world and to translate that knowledge into action.

The first, second and third-place winning teams and their innovations are listed below.

First Place: Perimeter College at Georgia State University, GA  
Project: Gorginea Care

Second Place: Dallas College, TX  
Project: Autonomous Monitoring for Blaze Emergency Response (AMBER)

Third Place: County College of Morris, NJ  
Project: Doing the MOST with NBD-QC

This week, 12 community colleges selected as finalists in a national competition attended an Innovation Boot Camp where they learned from entrepreneurs and experts in business planning, stakeholder engagement, strategic communication, and marketplace dynamics. The Boot Camp culminated in a Student Innovation Poster Session with STEM leaders and congressional stakeholders, and a 5-minute pitch presentation to a panel of industry and entrepreneurial professionals determining the winning teams.

“Year after year, I am thrilled to witness the promising talent that the Community College Innovation Challenge brings together,” said James L. Moore III, assistant director for STEM Education. “The

student participants represent both the present and future of STEM by addressing some of the most pressing challenges of our times. NSF is proud to co-sponsor CCIC and to congratulate the students for doing an outstanding job translating their knowledge into action.”

Among the ideas the 12 finalist teams presented this year are innovative and transformative solutions that address clean water; renewable energy and energy storage; HIV treatment; women’s healthcare; fire prevention; combating plastic waste; and providing accessible solutions for people with disabilities.

“Truly inspiring,” said Walter G. Bumphus, president and CEO of AACC. “We are so proud to be afforded the opportunity to provide these resources for community college students to showcase their innovative and creative solutions to real-world issues. The projects featured show the amazing potential these students have to make meaningful economic and societal impact. Congratulations to the team from Georgia Perimeter College at Georgia State University and to all of the finalists.”

To receive updates about the CCIC’s 2024 winners, follow [@Comm\\_College](#) or visit [www.aaccinnovationchallenge.com](http://www.aaccinnovationchallenge.com).

###

### **About AACC**

*As the voice of the nation’s community colleges, the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), delivers educational and economic opportunity for more than 10 million diverse students in search of the American Dream. Uniquely dedicated to access and success for all students, AACC’s member colleges provide an on-ramp to degree attainment, skilled careers, and family-supporting wages. Located in Washington, D.C., AACC advocates for these not-for-profit, public-serving institutions to ensure they have the resources and support they need to deliver on the mission of increasing economic mobility for all. <https://www.aacc.nche.edu/>*

### **About NSF**

*About NSF The U.S. National Science Foundation propels the nation forward by advancing fundamental research in all fields of science and engineering. NSF supports research and people by providing facilities, instruments and funding to support their ingenuity and sustain the U.S. as a global leader in research and innovation. With a fiscal year 2024 budget of \$9.06 billion, NSF funds reach all 50 states through grants to nearly 2,000 colleges, universities and institutions. Each year, NSF receives more than 40,000 competitive proposals and makes about 11,000 new awards. Those awards include support for cooperative research with industry, Arctic and Antarctic research and operations, and U.S. participation in international scientific efforts. <https://www.nsf.gov>*