On Saturday, April 23rd ENTP students made their final pitch, competing for $10,000 in total venture funding. Held for the very first time in the Oppenheimer Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation (OC), our annual pitch competition featured five Forester teams. These student entrepreneurs pitched to a distinguished panel of judges:

Ken Barber
Executive Director of the Adelante Center

Melissa Kaufman
Founding Executive Director of the Garage at Northwestern University
Melinda Whittington
President & CEO of La-Z-Boy

Steve Whittington
CEO of Lifeworking, LLC

The judges awarded the following prizes...

**Best Business Pitch**

*Amaryllis*

Anila Buja ‘23

Jaclyn Lonergan ‘23

Ariela Menendez Iglesias ‘23

**Best Business Idea**

*EDUNFT.eth*

Val Halitjaha ‘22

Luis Landeros ‘22

**Best Social Innovation**

*Blueview Glass*

Jerries Azar ‘22

Keano Chicalia ‘22

**Most Promising Opportunity**

*PlanOrganise*
Rob Delismon ’22

Steve Dermont ’22

Mona McCormack ’22

**Social Impact Award**

*Volunteer Me*

Connor Cahill ’22

Ely Dobrodt ’22

Joey Jaquint ‘22

Maggie Swansen ’22

**Crowd Favorite**

*A Amaryllis*

Anila Buja ’23

Jaclyn Lonergan ’23

Ariela Menendez Iglesias ’23

**Innovation Award (sponsored by AbbVie)**

*Blueview Glass*

Jerries Azar ‘22

Keano Chicalia ‘22
We are grateful to our judges for their time, expertise, and encouragement.

We would also like to thank the Lake Forest College Entrepreneurship Advisory Council members who continue to provide invaluable advice and support for the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Program at Lake Forest College. Members include David Moore, Craig Collister, David Gorter ’80, Barrett Davie, Matthew Roszak ’95, Edgar F. (Skip) Heizer, III, Ellen A. Stirling, Dean DeBiase, Liam Connell ’17, Christopher Nyren ’99, John Dick, Sally Salzer, Jim Crawford, Jeffrey M. Walters, Beth Marsh, Rob Pasquesi, Susan Wright, and L. Peter Smith.

AbbVie for the generous support of this year's Venture Design Challenge.

Our semi-final's judges Cheryl Ashley, Kate Holland, John McDonough, Eli Kraus ’22, and Manisha Kumar ’21, and 2022 mentors Brandon Berish ’20, Marcus Franklin ’99, Colin Hennessy, Mollie Lawniczak, Maureen Tart Lee, Mari Pagone, and Anna Singer for their strong coaching and tireless support this semester.

And Lake Forest College leadership:

Stephen D. Schutt, President of Lake Forest College

Davis Schneiderman, Krebs Provost, Dean of the Faculty, and incoming Executive Director of the Krebs Center for the Humanities
Amanda Felkey, Professor of Economics and Business Chair of Entrepreneurship and Innovation

After the pitches wrapped, we celebrated our winners and honored our graduating ENTP Seniors! It was a bittersweet celebration for me as this was the first graduating class I welcomed into the minor as first years. I met them in ENTP 110 and was delighted to work with them again in our capstone ENTP 370 course. This offered me an opportunity to see how they applied what they had learned across our entire suite of ENTP courses as they worked in teams to design a viable venture and deliver a professional pitch. On behalf of the ENTP program, I am very proud of our ENTP students. I know they will do great things in the world!

WHAT ARE STUDENTS SAYING ABOUT THE VENTURE DESIGN CHALLENGE?
"In the Venture Design Challenge, students gain skills for the real world. What I loved about the pitch competition and ENTP classes in general was the connection to the real world and my work experience; this is not something you always find in other courses."
– Mona Hussein McCormack ’22 co-founder of PlanOrganise

"I have always been passionate about entrepreneurship, but I never had the opportunity to participate in innovation competitions. However, the ENTP program at Lake Forest College allowed me to gain a full insight on how to develop an idea from seed stages to potential investors."
– Jerries Azar ’22 co-founder of Blueview Glass

"The Venture Design Challenge showed me how to put my ideas on paper and explain my thoughts thoroughly. I feel a lot more confident in myself and my ability to pitch an idea."
– Delaney Sjong ’22 co-founder of Squad Sport

Spend your summer in the Silicon Valley working on your venture

Apply to Y Combinator!

Launched in 2005, YC has launched companies such as Stripe, Airbnb, Cruise, Dropbox, and many more. Located in the San Francisco Bay Area, YC truly pioneered the accelerator model. Companies from all across the country join YC for its investor network, community, guidance, and support.

Now, it's your turn. Apply to join YC this summer! If you make the cut, YC will invite you to make a pitch. But you got this because you can apply what you learned in your ENTP courses to make a great pitch!

If selected, your company's founding team will spend
June – August in the Bay Area!

Apply Here

At Lake Forest College our entrepreneurs and innovators learn how to identify problems worth solving and how to mobilize the people, resources, and networks to solve them. Our students' great ideas start at the Great Lakes and go anywhere and everywhere.