Three biological sciences students participated in the Catalyst Competition. The competition, which was aimed at fostering innovation and entrepreneurship, saw student teams pitch their ideas to a panel of judges in March 2023. The students received mentorship and support from faculty advisers, as well as access to entrepreneurial-related educational workshops, professional consultants, and funding opportunities.

Faculty adviser Sharon Bewick wrote in her nomination letter, "Daniel is a born teacher," highlighting his exceptional ability to inspire and engage his students. Daniel is known for his uncanny knack for recognizing and encouraging the potential in underrepresented students to consider a career in the sciences. He has recruited and mentored numerous undergraduates in his lab, where he has set up a robust research environment and fostered a culture of curiosity and discovery.

Daniel's passion for biology extends beyond the classroom. He has recruited and mentored students in research projects, helping them explore their interests and develop critical thinking skills. As part of the program, teams received comprehensive support through educational workshops, professional consulting, and access to funding opportunities. This support enabled the students to develop their ideas and bring them to life, ultimately preparing them for success in their future careers.

Daniel's success in undergraduate science teaching is well-documented, and he has been recognized for his outstanding contributions to student success. This College of Science award honors graduate students who have been exemplary in undergraduate science teaching, recognizing their dedication to excellence in teaching and their commitment to strengthening and engaging with the community. It is a testament to Daniel's exceptional teaching skills and his passion for fostering the next generation of scientists and researchers.