



## [The 2016-17 Big Ideas Contest has launched!](#)

This year, we are excited to announce our new [Hardware for Good category](#) and partnership with the [Autodesk Foundation](#) to encourage the development of hardware products for social benefit.

Each year, the [Big Ideas Contest](#) awards up to \$300,000 in prizes to undergraduate and graduate students with creative solutions to solve pressing social challenges. Teams can win up to **\$18,000** in award funding, receive extensive feedback from judges, access skills development workshops and networking opportunities, get exposure to topic area experts, and participate in a 6-week mentorship period for finalist teams.

**3 page pre-proposal submissions due November 16, 12pm PT**

Learn more: <http://bigideas.berkeley.edu/>

Questions? [bigideas@berkeley.edu](mailto:bigideas@berkeley.edu)

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## Upcoming Big Ideas Events

[Wednesday, September 7: Big Ideas Contest Information Session](#)

6:00pm PT | B100 Blum Hall

Learn more about the goals, categories, timeline and requirements of this year's contest.

**Tuesday, September 27: Big Ideas Contest Information Session**

6:00pm PT | B100 Blum Hall

Learn more about the goals, categories, timeline and requirements of this year's contest.

**Wednesday, September 28: Hardware for Good Category Design Luncheon**

12:00pm PT | Studio 310 Jacobs Hall

Join us at the Jacobs Institute for Design Innovation for the kickoff of the [Hardware for Good category](#) & an overview of the resources available to support socially-focused hardware innovations.

**Tuesday, October 11: Big Ideas Contest Pre-proposal Writing Workshop**

6:00pm PT | B100 Blum Hall

Get guidance and feedback on how to effectively craft your Big Ideas pre-proposal.

**[More events](#)**

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## Affiliated Events

**[Best for the World Gathering](#)**

September 8 | 11:00am - 11:00pm | Zellerbach Hall

The Best for the World Gathering surrounds the annual awards honoring companies whose groundbreaking business models are best for workers, best for communities, and best for the environment. This fun, educational event connects students with current and future business leaders who seek a better way to do business. Held at the University of California, Berkeley, in partnership with B the Change Media, the Haas School of Business, and the Center for Responsible Business, this event offers the chance for conscientious business leaders to gather, educate and celebrate the positive impact business can have in the world.

**[DIL 2016 State of the Science Conference: The Science of Scaling](#)**

September 26 | 9:00am - 5:00pm | B100 Blum Hall

The 2016 DIL State of the Science Conference, "The Science of Scaling: Building Evidence to Advance Anti-Poverty Innovations", will bring together academic researchers, development practitioners, technology developers, and investors to review the evidence on scaling successful anti-poverty innovations—particularly those developed at universities. Conference themes include: External Validity; Multi-cluster studies - Same Hypothesis, Different Settings; Enabling Scale with Technology; Testing at Scale; Education Interventions at Scale; Using Media and Civil Society to Promote Scale Up; Mixed Methods Research for Scaling Dev Eng Innovations. Learn more and register [here!](#)

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# Additional Opportunities

## [USAID HESN Photo Contest](#)

Former Big Ideas winners can submit Big Ideas project photos to the USAID Higher Education Solutions Network (HESN) photo contest for a chance to win up to \$500! Submit by September 9, instructions [here](#).

## [2016 Westly Prize Open - \\$20,000 Award](#)

The 2016 Westly Prize is now open! The Westly Prize is a \$20,000 cash award given to promising young early-stage social entrepreneurs who have built something that could make the world a better place. Applicants must be under the age of 28, and live in or be from California. Apply by September 15.

## [Apply for the Startup@BerkeleyLaw FORM+FUND Workshop Series](#)

Startup@BerkeleyLaw is pleased to announce the 2016-17 FORM+FUND Workshop Series at UC Berkeley. The FORM+FUND workshops are two-hour interactive programs that address critical operational, financial, and legal components of starting and scaling a successful business. Each workshop features office hours hosted by leading Silicon Valley attorneys and venture capitalists. Workshop capacity is extremely limited and priority will be given to entrepreneurs that enroll in the full series.

## [Apply for the next Skydeck Startup Cohort](#)

Must have a team member affiliated with UC Berkeley, LBNL, or UCSF. SkyDeck combines the consulting know-how of traditional accelerators with the vast resources of our research university. This robust partnership is coupled with SkyDeck's unique mentorship program to create a powerful environment for startups. Skydeck's 60+ advisors and a large network of investors connect you to the expertise and capital you need to launch and grow. Apply by September 23.

## [Apply for the CITRIS Foundry Startup Accelerator](#)

The CITRIS Foundry is the University of California accelerator for founders building transformative technology companies. The program provides \$5,000 – \$10,000 in seed funding for startups; up to \$50,000 in total resources including office, meeting and lab space; cloud computing; legal services; and educational programs; customized mentorship specific to your needs from our extensive network of entrepreneurs, investors and industry experts; a strong community of fellow founders; and access to design and prototyping tools at the [CITRIS Invention Lab](#) as well as partner lab facilities at [QB3](#) and the [Marvell Nanolab](#). Apply by September 25.

## [Lemelson-MIT Student Prizes](#)

The Lemelson-MIT Program is searching for the most inventive undergraduate and graduate students to apply for the 2017 Lemelson-MIT Student Prize (\$10-15,000) and your most inventive, entrepreneurial colleagues to be nominated for the 2017 Lemelson-MIT Prize (\$500,000)! For more information, please visit [lemelson.mit.edu](http://lemelson.mit.edu) or contact The Lemelson-MIT Program at [awards-lemelson@mit.edu](mailto:awards-lemelson@mit.edu). Apply by September 30.

## [Call for Innovations: Securing Water for Food Grand Challenge for](#)

## Development

USAID's Securing Water for Food Grand Challenge for Development aims to increase access to innovations that help farmers produce more food with less water, enhance water storage, and improve the use of saline water and soils to produce food. It will provide up to \$2 million in funding for innovations improving water & food security. Learn more and apply [here](#) by October 10.

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