

# BIG IDEAS

2018-2019

## CALL FOR MENTORS



**Big Ideas is an early-stage innovation contest that provides up to \$10K in seed funding, resources, mentorship and recognition to student-led, social ventures.**

The Big Ideas Contest supports innovative and high-impact student initiatives aimed at solving the world's most pressing problems. Open to all 10 University of California campuses, and 2 campuses abroad, Big Ideas attracts an exceptionally diverse pool of undergraduate and graduate students across more than 85 academic disciplines. Big Ideas seeks out novel ideas then offers targeted training and support to social entrepreneurs as they navigate the earliest stages of the ideation process. In doing so, the Contest not only fosters a diverse pipeline of thousands of young innovators committed to social impact, but also ensures promising teams develop the capacity necessary to build successful start-ups.

**The success of the contest and the teams and ideas it produces is made possible by the 300+ enthusiastic professionals who serve as judges and mentors each year.** Past mentors have included industry leaders, professors, innovative thinkers, entrepreneurs, consultants, and project designers from one or more of our categories areas - including representatives from Google, Facebook, USAID, PATH, the World Bank, the Autodesk Foundation and many others.

12  
CAMPUSES

300+  
BIG IDEAS

UP TO \$300K  
AWARDS

1500+  
NETWORK

LEARN MORE: [bigideascontest.org](http://bigideascontest.org) | [bigideas@berkeley.edu](mailto:bigideas@berkeley.edu)

2018-19 CATEGORIES



ART & SOCIAL CHANGE



ENERGY & RESOURCE ALTERNATIVES



CONNECTED COMMUNITIES



FOOD SYSTEMS



GLOBAL HEALTH



HARDWARE FOR GOOD



WORKFORCE EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT



SCALING UP BIG IDEAS

# BIG IDEAS MENTORS OVERVIEW

This year, we expect student teams from across 12 universities to submit a record-breaking number of applications, which means we'll need more support from dedicated mentors who are passionate about working with inspiring students and getting involved with social innovations.

**Each Big Ideas mentor that is matched with a finalist team supports this team through a 6-week mentorship period from late January to early March.** Mentors spend approximately 1-2 hours a week with their respective finalist team (via phone / Skype / email / in person) refining their project idea, providing advice on design and implementation, and offering general guidance as teams develop their 10 page full proposals.

Each Mentor is asked to complete an interest form expressing their areas of expertise, their interests, and any preferences or limitations they have in regard to working with teams. When teams are invited to the final round in late December, they are asked to complete a similar form, expressing the types of skills, resources or support they would like to receive from a mentor. Teams and mentors are then matched based on their mutual interests and needs.

Because the actual pairing depends highly on which teams advance to the final round and what their exact needs are, mentors in our pool are not guaranteed a match. However, as a member of our mentor pool, you can still meet fellow mentors and student teams at our many networking events, including open-advising and feedback sessions, our Grand Prize Pitch Day, and the end-of-year Awards Ceremony.

Mentorships are an invaluable resource for student teams as they look to hone their ideas in the full proposal round. **Year after year, teams cite the Big Ideas mentorship as one of the most value-added parts of the program.** Your support is critical to the success of these student-led ventures, and we hope you will join us as a Big Ideas mentor this year!



**PAY IT FORWARD** by giving back to aspiring social innovators and entrepreneurs from 100+ disciplines



**GET INSPIRED** by novel ideas from the next generation of innovators, entrepreneurs and changemakers from UC Berkeley and other top universities



**GROW YOUR NETWORK** by joining a network of 300+ industry leaders and professionals who support Big Ideas as judges and mentors

"We fully appreciated the guidance and support of our mentor who was a great source of perspective as well as a sounding board for new ideas. It was important for us to continually get fresh feedback as we refined our idea and operating model, and our mentor was an invaluable resource in that regard."

Iris Shim, Acopio, Scaling Up Winner, Big Ideas 2012