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The Big Ideas Contest Officially Launches September 5th!

Now in its 13th year, the Big Ideas Contest is back and ready to help you launch your social venture! [Sign up for an advising session TODAY](#) to discuss how you can take your big idea to the next level.

FUNDING | TRAINING | NETWORKS | RECOGNITION

Come learn more at the first Big Ideas Information Session!
September 12, 6pm PT | B100 Blum Hall | UC Berkeley

Alumni Spotlights & Opportunities

- Rebecca Hui (2013 winner), founder of [Roots Studio](#) is featured in [the Stanford Social Innovation Review](#) for her work in creating a new tech marketplace for tribal art.
- [Bolt Threads](#) (2006 winner) is highlighted in [Forbes](#) for their impressive journey into the market with lab-made spider silk thread that is revolutionizing the fashion industry.
- Rachel Sklar (2018 winner), founder of [Pit Vidura](#), is featured on the [Big Ideas blog](#) about how the company provides innovative and environmentally sustainable pit latrine emptying services in Kigali, Rwanda.
- [Wildfire](#) (2016 winner) is looking to fill a variety of product, design, and engineering roles for their San Francisco office. [Learn more here.](#)



Big Ideas Alumni: [Email us](#) if you have an update to share, an opportunity to advertise, and/or are in need of additional resources!



Resources for Early-Stage Innovators

- *Open to Bay Area based entrepreneurs!*
[Startup@BerkeleyLaw](#) presents the FORM+FUND Series on UC Berkeley's campus each semester open to everyone in the Bay Area. This series teaches the core legal, financial, and organizational aspects of starting and scaling a new business. Each session features introductions and office hours hosted by leading Silicon Valley attorneys, entrepreneurs, and venture capitalists. **You must register to attend and space is limited, so [sign up here](#) before September 4, 2018.**
- *Open to UC Berkeley students, faculty, and staff!*
[UC Berkeley's Crowdfunding Initiative](#) is looking for students who want to use their network to fund their projects! UC Berkeley's Crowdfunding initiative helps students, faculty, staff members, and researchers raise money to turn their great ideas into reality. If you are interested in crowdfunding for one of your projects, [learn more and apply here](#). **The next round of crowdfunding will take place October 15 to November 15, 2018 and the deadline to apply is August 23, 2018.**
- *Open to all young California entrepreneurs!*
The [Westly Foundation](#) is seeking entrepreneurial change makers to apply for the [Westly Prize for Young Innovators of California](#). This awards \$40,000 in cash prizes to innovators under 28 with novel solutions to community challenges at home or around the world. Innovations must be early-stage but prototyped and scalable. The innovators must live, work, or attend school in California, or have a residence in California but attend school elsewhere. Individual founders or founding teams of up to four may apply. Non-profit, for-profit, or hybrid ventures are eligible, if they demonstrate a strong social mission. [Learn more here](#), and [apply here](#)! **The deadline to apply is October 15, 2018.**
- *Open to all UC Berkeley student innovators!*
[The Jacobs Institute for Design Innovation](#) is looking for the next generation of student makers! After a successful inaugural program cohort in spring 2018, Jacobs' seeks to support more Berkeley students for the [Jacobs Institute Innovation Catalysts fall 2018 cohort](#). Please note the accelerated fall timeline, compared to the spring timeline. For more information and application instructions, [learn more here](#) or contact [Amy Dinh](#). **The deadline for fall 2018 is August 27, at 12 pm PT.**
- *Open to all students with a sustainability focus!*
[The Big PITCH competition](#) awards \$10,000 to student innovators in the field of sustainability. BIG Pitch is part of [Ocean Exchange](#), a non-profit with the sole mission to help advance sustainable solutions from early stage companies, either for-profit or not-for-profit. BIG Pitch evaluates enterprises based on impact, level of innovation, and the ability to execute/implement/commercialize. To be eligible, the team must be comprised mostly of undergraduate or graduate level students with solutions that support sustainability. **The deadline to apply is September 7 2018 at 11:59pm GMT (+\$50 registration fee).**

Upcoming Events

- [Creating Enduring Prosperity for Developing Economies](#)
Wednesday, September 5 | 12pm-1pm | UC Berkeley
Come learn about the different philanthropic approaches to solving some of the world's greatest problems. Leslie Lang Tsai, Assistant Vice President and General Counsel of [the Cassia Foundation](#), will share lessons learned from the collaborative philanthropic ecosystem, as well as the systems changes required to support it. The talk will also explore the role of other partners – social entrepreneurs, businesses, governments – in creating lasting prosperity for developing economies. Lunch will be provided.
 - [Putting AI to Work](#)
Tuesday, September 25 | 10:30am - 5:30pm | UC Berkeley
Come and learn how AI can be used to extend productive professional activity, expand the available labor pool, support lifelong learning, and enhance human labor, especially for the aging and those with disabilities. Hosted by CITRIS, the Banatao Institute and Microsoft, "Putting AI to Work" will bring together leading scholars, practitioners, industry representatives, and community organizations to discuss the pace and extent of the effects of AI on the future of work in relation to aging and disability.
 - [European Patent Office and Startup Implications](#)
Friday, September 21, | 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM | UC Berkeley
The European Patent Office will host an event to provide startups with the latest information regarding the filing and processing of patent applications. The free event is open to the public.
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