

# ***U-Innovate***

## **Guidelines**

### **What is U-Innovate:**

- A fun, fast-paced competition (in front of an audience of your peers) where you can pitch your idea to a panel of judges from the UCAR Exchange Board of Directors for a chance to win cash prize and other resources designed to help you advance your idea. This is your opportunity to take the next step to move your idea from research toward a commercial application.

### **What it is not:**

- This is not a research proposal or a place to request funding for research. This is all about moving your idea one step closer toward commercialization.

### **How it works:**

- To be considered, please submit 8 PowerPoint slides to [uinnovate@ucar.edu](mailto:uinnovate@ucar.edu) no later than April 15<sup>th</sup>. Your slides should:
  - o Describe your technology (e.g., software, instrument, app) and its potential applications
  - o Explain what gap the technology fills or the need for the application (product or service)
  - o Address the possible impacts and benefits of the new technology
  - o Provide the current state of development or technical readiness level
  - o Tell the judges what business resources you need in order to take your technology to the next level
- Up to 10 contestants will be selected to present their PowerPoint slides at a public pitchfest. Each contestant will have 8 minutes to present 8 slides and to persuade the judges that, given the right support, their idea could be the “next big thing.”
- A panel of three judges will listen to your pitch, ask you questions, and select a 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winner.
- Cash prizes will be: \$2500 for 1<sup>st</sup> place; \$1500 for 2<sup>nd</sup> place; and \$800 for 3<sup>rd</sup> place.
- The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place winners will also receive up to 25 hours of paid time to work on commercialization of their idea.
- All three winners will receive mentoring from members of the UCAR Exchange Board of Directors.
- Contestants will also be eligible to receive advanced training at the University of Colorado Commercialization Academy.
- The judges are members of the UCAR Exchange Board of Directors and are experienced local entrepreneurs. Each is under an obligation to keep your ideas confidential.
- The judges (at their discretion) may help the winning contestant(s) with:
  - o Introductions to local business leaders, entrepreneurs and potential funders
  - o Provide mentorship on how to move your idea to the next level
  - o Assist with connections to subject matter experts
  - o Offer recommendations and support in your efforts to obtain innovation and technology transfer funds from within UCAR, in the community and with federal agencies

### **When:**

- April 26<sup>th</sup> 2:30 – 4:30 pm with a reception following from 4:30 – 5:30.

**All UCAR employees are invited to attend.**