2019 President’s Engagement and Innovation Prizes
Joint Information Session (CURF)
“Penn grads win chance to change the world”

Chicago Furniture Bank
Chicago, IL

Healthy Pequeños
Miacatlán, Mexico

rePurpose
Mumbai, India

Avisi Technologies
U.S. (national)
President’s Engagement Prize: Brief History

- Launched in fall 2014; first awarded in spring 2015
- Underscores the Penn Compact 2020’s commitment to impact

Pictured: Katlyn Grasso, 2015 PEP cohort (for GenHERation)
President’s Innovation Prize: Brief History

• Launched in fall 2015; first awarded in spring 2016

• Underscores the Penn Compact’s commitment to innovation and impact

Pictured: Alfredo Muniz and Sade Oba, 2016 PIP cohort (for XEED)
Eligibility requirements for 2018-19 Prize cycle

• Must be a **Penn senior** graduating in December 2018 or May/August 2019

• Underclassmen, alumni, graduate students and/or non-affiliates may assist with projects but are considered **consultants** for purpose of Prize competition
How many students can be on a PEP/PIP team?

- **PEP**: Max three per team; individual submissions are fine
- **PIP**: Max five per team; individual submissions are fine
- **No preference** by Selection Committee for individual or team submissions

Pictured: Jodi Feinberg, 2015 PEP cohort (for Home, Heart, Health)
What are the basic project requirements?

- **PEP**: Project should be designed as a **nonprofit venture** with the capacity to produce a **positive impact** locally (in Philadelphia), nationally (across the U.S.) or globally.

- **PIP**: Project should be designed as a **for-profit venture** with a positive social mission.

_Pictured: Adrian Lievano, 2015 PEP cohort (for Everwaters)_
What does the meat of the application consist of?

- **PEP**: Project proposal (approximately 1,500 words total) plus a detailed budget planning form and written budget justification

- **PIP**: Four-page business plan, including a budget pro forma; optional elevator pitch video

- Full details are available on CURF’s website
Are there any additional application requirements?

- **Penn project mentor** commitment form
- Additional **letter of recommendation** for each team member
- **Resume and unofficial transcript** for each team member
- Optional, but highly recommended: **signed letters of preliminary interest/commitment from partners**

*Pictured: William Duckworth, 2016 PEP cohort (for Fever Smart)*
How do I go about picking a mentor and identifying partners?

- The ideal mentor knows you and has expertise in your project area
- The project mentor is, in some regards, the “adult in the room”
- Pick partner organizations that are both established and collaborative
- Select an appropriate number of partner organizations
What do Prize winners receive?

- **PEP:** Up to $100K, plus a $50K living stipend per team member

- **PIP:** $100K, a $50K living stipend per team member, space at the **Pennovation Center** and ongoing mentorship from the **Penn Center for Innovation**

*Pictured: Vaishak Kumar, 2016 PEP cohort (for NESARA Agriculture Extension)*
Who picks the Prize winner(s)?

• President Gutmann makes the final selection; she is advised by a Selection Committee for each Prize.

• Both Selection Committees contain one faculty representative from each undergraduate School, along with a former Prize recipient.

Pictured: Kriya Patel, 2016 PEP cohort (for Coming Home to Continued Care)
Five questions to keep in mind as you think through an idea

• How will you measure **impact**?

• How will you ensure **sustainability**?

• What makes your project **unique**?

• If selected as a winner, what might a typical **“day in the life”** look like for you?

• Why are you the **right person** (and/or team) to execute this project?
The deadline for **ALL** application materials is 11:59 p.m. Friday, January 25, 2019. No exceptions!
Be sure to fill out your pre-application form well in advance of the final deadline.
Tax and/or legal questions? Seek out an independent accounting and/or legal resource.

Pictured: Antoinette Zoumanigui and Selamawit Bekele, 2017 PEP cohort (for Project Y.V.E.T.A.)
How do I get started?

Identify a problem

Develop a practical solution

Choose between PEP and PIP
(no double applications!)

Identify a team (if applicable)

Work through how best to operationalize your solution
Where can I obtain support?

In addition to CURF, consider seeking out:

Netter Center (PEP)
Civic House (PEP)
Fox Leadership (PEP)
Wharton Social Impact (PEP and PIP)
Wharton Entrepreneurship (PIP)
Weiss Tech House (PIP)
Penn Center for Innovation (PIP; co-administer of Prize)
Your Professors
Past Prize Recipients
What should I be doing as the semester progresses?

- Develop and refine your idea
- Form your team (if applicable)
- Decide between PEP and PIP

**September**

- Secure a mentor
- Secure partners, as/if needed
- Attend a session with a past recipient

**October-November**

- Plan out budget
- Secure recommenders
- Work through and submit your application

**December-January**
When will I find out if I’m a winner?

- Application deadline
  - January 25, 2019

- Semifinalists notified; interviews/business pitches will follow in weeks ahead
  - By end of February

- President selects and informs recipients
  - By first week of April

By end of February
By first week of April

January 25, 2019

By end of February
How many students apply each year?
Approximately 30-40 applications for PEP; approximately 15-20 applications for PIP.
Is there a location-based preference (i.e. local, national, global)?

No.
Is there an inherent preference for established ventures over new ideas?

No, but preparation and planning are key.
Additional questions? They’re probably already answered.

Read CURF’s website thoroughly: curf.upenn.edu/prizes

Visit PEP and PIP websites for recipient profiles and contact info: pennpep.upenn.edu and pennpip.upenn.edu

 Attend another Prize-specific information session with a past recipient

  Attend PCI office hours

  Attend a session with the Penn Tax Office
Couldn’t find an answer? Reach out to us.

PEP questions: Dr. Wallace Genser (genser@upenn.edu); call the CURF office at 215-746-6488 to schedule an appointment

PIP questions: Email Seth Zweifler in the President’s Office at zweifler@upenn.edu