



'Park & Diamond' Takes Top e-Fest Prize

James Beal (EIX.org | e-Fest® | FamilyBusiness.org)

KEYWORDS: Entrepreneurship, Innovation, Strategy, Startups, Team Development.

e-Fest® Information

For 2018 e-Fest® info, click [here](https://eiexchange.com/e-fest) (<https://eiexchange.com/e-fest>) (<https://eiexchange.com/e-fest>) .

e-Fest® 2017

MINNEAPOLIS, April 9, 2017 – The finals judges returned their decision last night, after an excellent competition. The overall finals champion undergraduate student teams for e-Fest 2017 are:

#1 (\$100K) - Team Park & Diamond, Virginia Tech

#2 (\$50K) - Team Eat Your Coffee, Northeastern University

#3 (\$25K) - Team Yellow Card, Auburn University

Along with these top three, others recognized among the top five finalists included Team Orindi Ventures (Grand Valley State University) and Team PeeWee Packs (Grove City College). A list of all 25 semi-finalist inventions is below.

The competition awarded more than \$200,000 in grants and scholarships for the best undergraduate business ideas. Finalist teams were chosen from a pool of more than 160 teams from 81 schools who submitted seven-minute videos and 12 slides describing their business ideas. A panel of 32 judges selected the finalists, who received travel stipends and hotel accommodations for the final round.

The largest undergraduates-only business plan competition (as measured by the size of the cash awards), e-Fest is co-sponsored by the [Schulze School of Entrepreneurship](http://www.stthomas.edu/business/schulze-school/) (<http://www.stthomas.edu/business/schulze-school/>) , Opus College of Business at the University of St. Thomas in Minneapolis and [EIX.org](https://eiexchange.com/) (<https://eiexchange.com/>) (<https://eiexchange.com/>) , an

online learning platform for entrepreneurs, students and professors. Featured speakers April 6-8 included Best Buy Co. founder Richard M. Schulze and "Shark Tank" TV show regular Daymond John, founder of FUBU, the urban clothing company that grew into a \$6 billion brand.

The top three teams received \$100,000, \$50,000 and \$25,000 in prizes. An additional \$10,000, \$5,000 and \$2,500 in grants went to their universities to support entrepreneurship education. A Friday night Innovation Challenge awarded \$20,000, \$10,000 and \$5,000 in scholarships to the top three student teams that developed the best solution to a business challenge posed that evening.

More information about the competition, including rules and rubrics for judging, can be found [here](https://eiexchange.com/e-fest) (<https://eiexchange.com/e-fest>) (<https://eiexchange.com/e-fest>) . The competition will take place at the Schulze School, located at 1000 LaSalle Avenue in Minneapolis.

2017 e-Fest Finalists

Boost Linguistics Drexel University

Philadelphia
PA

Team: Ethan Bresnahan, Alex Dodson, Jeff Nowak
Advisor: Chuck Sacco

Caddy-Clean Quinnipac University

Hamden
CT

Team: Joshua Macari, Kyle Freitas
Advisor: Dale Jasinski



Convey Software

**University of Illinois -
Urbana Champaign**

Champaign

Team: William Widjaja, Cody Pawlowski
Advisor: Chase Bonhag
IL

Eat Your Coffee

Northeastern University

*Boston
MA*

Team: Johnny Fayad, Ali Kothari
Advisor: Kimberly Eddleston

ExpressionM ed

University of St Thomas (MN)

Minneapolis

Team: Meghan Sharkus
Advisor: Laura Dunham
MN

FinMoto

University of St Thomas (MN)

Minneapolis

Team: Sam Rystrom
Advisor: Laura Dunham
MN

GeoSwap

University of Delaware

Newark

Team: Jason Bamford, Jordan Gonzalez
Advisor: Vincent Keith DiFelice
DE

Green Blox

College of Charleston

Charleston

Team: Joshua Weston
Advisor: Kelly Shaver
SC

In Our Hands

University of Wisconsin - Oshkosh

Oshkosh

Team: Abigail Merrill
Advisor: Colleen Merrill
WI

Jacket360

Western Michigan University

Kalamazoo

Team: Nicolas Thibault, Brandon Blocker
Advisor: Lisa Blocker
MI

Level Lacrosse - Feeder

Western Kentucky University

Bowling Green

Team: Muamer Razic
Advisor: Dawn Bolton
KY

NextStep

University of New Hampshire

Durham

Team: Sam Warach, Max Evarts, Max Miller
Advisor: Andrew Tj Earle
NH

Orindi Ventures

Grand Valley State University

Grand Rapids

Team: Jordan Vanderham, Zoe Bruyn
Advisor: Kevin McCurren
MI

Park & Diamond

Virginia Tech

Blacksburg

Team: David Hall, Jordan Klein
Advisor: Dick Daugherty
VA

PeeWee Packs

Grove City College

Grove City

Team: Hannah Vaccaro, Yvonne Ross
Advisor: Yvonne English
Harrington
PA

Phlex - xGoggles

University of Florida

Gainesville

Team: Luke Torres
Advisor: Michael Morris
FL

Sensor4Safe

Seton Hill University

Greensburg

Team: H. Fitzgerald, Robertson II,
Advisor: Lyzona Marshall
PA

Austin Sheridan, Melanie Ansell, Dhiraj Totwani

Simplifeye NC State University
Raleigh NC
Team: Cortney
 Cox
Advisor: Lewis
 Sheats

SpeechMaste Western Michigan rPro University
Kalamazoo MI
Team: Daniel
 Floyd
Advisor: Lara
 Hobson

Strokeflow Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore MD
Team: Sam
 Einhorn,
 Bredl,
 Hadley, Sofia Diez
Advisor: Phil
 Phan
 Emily

Tibah Binghamton University
Binghamton NY
Team: David
 Axelrod, Mauricio
 Morales
Advisor: Ken
 Mcleod

Torridity Instrument Heating Solutions LLC
University of Wisconsin - Madison
Madison WI
Team: Lizzy
 Svigelj,
 Kyle,
 Klayman
Advisor: Michael
 Williams
 Zach

Upright Kids University of Wisconsin - Oshkosh
Oshkosh WI
Team: Dylan
 Parks, Brad Ploch
Advisor: Jordan
 Rhodes

Vowel Inc. Babson College
Babson Park MA
Team: James
 Cheng,
 Lehman
Advisor: Yashiro
 Yamakawa

Yellow Card Auburn University
Auburn AL
Team: Chris
 Maurice
Advisor: Lakami
 Baker

About the e-Fest Speakers

Dick Schulze founded Best Buy Co. in 1983, and as CEO for 19 years led it to become the dominant consumer electronics retailer in the U.S. The company’s 2015 revenue was \$40 billion. Through the Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation, Schulze has continued to fund initiatives that support education, human & social services, and health & medicine.

Daymond John is a regular of the ABC weekly television show *Shark Tank*, which received the 2015 and 2014 Emmy Awards for Outstanding Structured Reality Programming. The show features entrepreneurs who present their business concepts to a panel (John, a fashion and branding expert who founded the FUBU clothing company; billionaire Mark Cuban; real estate mogul Barbara Corcoran; Lori Greiner, known as “The Queen of QVC”; tech innovator Robert Herjavec; and venture capitalist Kevin O’Leary). The show is in its eighth season.

About the Schulze School of Entrepreneurship

The [Schulze School of Entrepreneurship](http://www.stthomas.edu/business/schulze-school/) (<http://www.stthomas.edu/business/schulze-school/>) is based at the Opus College of Business at the University of St. Thomas in Minneapolis. It is the only of its kind within a business school, providing undergraduate and graduate entrepreneurship programs, public entrepreneurial and business education, and opportunities for funding new ventures. Innovators, serial entrepreneurs, small businesses, change makers and future business leaders come together in this hub of entrepreneurial thinking to recognize, explore and exploit opportunities. The Schulze School’s centers and institutes provide consulting, networking and small business incubators to help launch new endeavors and further solidify established ones. It serves 221 undergraduates who are majoring in entrepreneurship and nearly 400 who have taken entrepreneurship courses.

About EIX

Launched in 2014, Entrepreneur & Innovation Exchange ([EIX.org](https://eiexchange.com/)(<https://eiexchange.com/>)) is a free online publication and learning platform that aims to dramatically improve the success rate of new business ventures. Dedicated to entrepreneurship students, professors and practitioners, EIX is funded by the Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation. It is designed to advance and share the best research and practice of entrepreneurship, and make it relevant and accessible to both aspiring and practicing entrepreneurs. Dozens of universities have made it part of their entrepreneurship curricula.

Search Terms: Student entrepreneurs, eFest2017, eFest, student innovators, business plans, business ideas

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