

New Undergraduate Research and Entrepreneurship Competition Off to Strong Start

Boca Raton, FL – Nov. 18, 2015 – A dynamic new undergraduate research and entrepreneurship competition called First Wave is off to a promising start. Launched by the Division of Research this fall, the program is funding 20 proposals each with a \$500 grant to develop solutions to real-world issues this academic year. Student projects focusing on social causes, research and entrepreneurship represent the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters, College of Business, College of Design & Social Inquiry, Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College, College of Engineering and Computer Science, Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing and the Charles E. Schmidt College of Science. The projects are led by individuals or group teams and include one freshman, six sophomores and upperclassmen.

Teams were chosen based on significance of the problem addressed, innovation and the practical ability to develop and apply the idea to the real world. Jenny Reed is directing the program with Vice President for Research Daniel Flynn, Ph.D.

“FAU students are innovative, and this program gives them a chance to develop and showcase their novel ideas,” Reed said. “We have students poised to take on great challenges and I truly believe they will be successful.”

Participating students with research-focused projects are counseled on how to publish in journals and are advised to pursue opportunities with the Office of Undergraduate Research and Inquiry. Competitors with promising entrepreneurial ideas are invited to participate in Tech Runway bootcamps and may be eligible to receive further mentorship from Tech Runway staff and volunteers.

In March, each team will present their projects to a panel of faculty judges. Winners will be announced during an awards ceremony featuring poster presentations in April.