

STUDENT APPLIED BENCHMARKING 2024-2025 UPDATE



Eagle Innovation Challenge Rebranding

In Fall 2024, we re-branded the Student Applied Benchmarking showcase as the Eagle Innovation Challenge (EIC). The Student Applied Benchmarking process remains the foundation of the program and an essential part of the EIC process.



2025 Eagle Innovation Challenge Showcase

First Place

Cale Rogoyski,
Streamlining
Communication at Wake
Tech through a Mobile-
Friendly Community
Portal

Second Place

Amos David Romero
Castro, Wake Tech
Stress Response:
Proactive Strategies for
Enhancing Student Well-
Being and Engagement

Third Place (Tie)

Taras Brytskyy, Peer
Study Group Finder
James Francis, Naloxene
Access Initiative

Finalists:

Mannal Amjad
Taras Brytskyy
Amos David Romero Castro
James Francis
Han Nyan
Sehyun Park
Cale Rogoyski
Elle Ruiz
Deepson Tamang

The EIC Showcase was held in
conjunction with the Student Leadership
Recognition Ceremony and Torch Awards
in April 2025.

Email
eichallenge@waketech.edu
for more photos.

2024-2025

Highlights:

Updated SAB process and completed EIC rebrand

Established partnership with University Innovation Fellows Program

Held first EIC Meet Up

Conducted program research (publication pending)

Pinned our first University Innovation Fellow, Devin Carhart



University Innovation Fellows

The EIC team discovered Stanford's University Innovation Fellows program in 2023 and recruited our first applicant, Devin Carhart, in Spring 2024. Devin was one of our 2024 Student Applied Benchmarking Showcase finalists. We knew her project, the Global Connections Club, would be a good fit for UIF. Devin's goal was to support Study Abroad students through cultural events and fundraising, aiming to make international experiences more accessible for her fellow students.

Devin was selected for the UIF program in August 2024 and completed UIF training in October 2024. In April 2025, Devin and her UIF mentors, Emily Moore and Dr. Rebecca Berry, traveled to the University of Twente in the Netherlands, where Devin met the other 163 students from 44 institutions across 13 countries selected for the 2024-2025 cohort. Devin was the only community college student named a Fellow this year.

The UIF program, created through a National Science Foundation grant, has trained nearly 3,000 students from 314 schools worldwide, ranging from undergraduates to Ph.D. candidates. Three of Wake Tech's 2025 EIC finalists are currently applying to be UIF Fellows in 2025-2026 with help from EIC's Melody Henderson, who will serve as their UIF mentor.



The EIC Team

EIC Director
Emily Moore

Outreach and Publicity Coordinators

Jason Whitehead
Jessica Soto

Research and Assessment Coordinator
Denise Barton

Showcase Coordinators
Melody Henderson
Kay Ruth

Mentor Coordinator
Kerri Mercer

Members at Large
Dawn Harvel
Debra Buchanan

Thank you!

Thank you to President Emeritus Dr. Stephen Scott, the Balfour Beatty Foundation, and the Wake Tech Foundation for making Student Applied Benchmarking and the Eagle Innovation Challenge possible.

Many thanks also to President Scott Ralls, Foundation COO Stephanie Lake, Dean Michelle Jackson, Dean Brian Anweiler, Assistant Director of Student Organizations Luanne Burns, and all who helped with our University Innovation Fellows partnership.

Thank you to our judges:

Dr. Nicole Reaves, Executive Vice President

Dr. Ryan Schwiebert, Vice President, ITS

Dr. Gabby McCutchen, Provost, Arts and Sciences and Scott Northern Wake Campus

Thank you to our 2024-2025 mentors:

Mina Hogsett, Harriet Hoover, Jennifer Lee, Gillian Norton, Andras Paul, Heather Peterson