Dickinson

Civic Innovation Competition: K-12 Youth Support

Call for Proposals

The Challenge

The ongoing COVID-19 crisis has changed our lives in many ways. For kids in school, this has included a shift to remote learning and missing the hallmarks of a typical school year--connecting with teachers and mentors, time with friends, and participating in extracurricular activities. As many area schools rely on remote or blended learning environments this fall, students will need new ways to remain actively engaged in their cognitive and social development.

How can we support students in our communities? How can we provide developmentally appropriate social and emotional support when youth are not in a traditional classroom? How can we ensure that all students have access to resources that increase their chances for a successful school year?

Consider all that "school" is--a place to learn about academic subjects, a place for supportive social connections with trusted adults, a safe place to go, a place to practice new skills, a place to explore and experience new things (e.g., field trips and class experiments). During an unprecedented year, students will be asked to adjust to a new mix of educational activities, including online instructional meetings and self-directed learning activities.

How do we support students in independent learning? What are the best ways to provide individual learning support on a large scale when access to teachers and mentors might be limited? For students who won't have adult supervision at home, how can we provide that support? For families with multiple children, how can we support complicated schedules that might conflict with work and other responsibilities?

We are seeking innovative, community-based solutions to these challenges, and we invite you to be a part of the solution. In particular, we are interested in approaches that engage community volunteers with youth in sustained, safe, and developmentally appropriate ways.

The Competition

The Dickinson College Civic Innovation Competition calls on teams to design creative solutions to our community's challenges. The competition has three phases:

- Round 1--Designing a proposal and implementation plan in the form of a Concept Paper (guidelines in separate document).
- Round 2-- Those selected as Semifinalists will participate in the Civic Innovation Workshop (remote).
- Round 3--Those selected as the grand prize winner and select runners-up will meet with Dickinson's Associate Provost to develop an implementation plan.

Proposals and implementation plans will be judged based on feasibility, expected outcomes and alignment with community needs, creativity, and effective communication of the concept. Dickinson College's Center for Civic Learning & Action is hosting the competition in partnership with the Carlisle Community Action Network.

The Prize

The team selected as the grand prize winner will receive $2,000 and its solution will be implemented in the Carlisle community. Additional prizes may be available for runners-up.

Eligibility

Teams of 2-7 members. A majority of the members of each team must meet one or more of the following criteria: 1) currently reside in Cumberland County (PA) or 2) be a current faculty, staff, student, or alumna/us of Dickinson College.

There are two competition divisions:
Youth Division: All team members must be under 18 years of age and/or currently enrolled in a K-12 school. Youth teams are allowed one adult advisor or mentor who is not an official member of the team.

Adult Division: A team with one or more members ineligible for the Youth Division.

Timeline

Monday, August 10th: Competition Opens
Thursday, August 27th at 11:59pm: Initial Proposals Due
Tuesday, September 1st: Semifinalists are Announced
Saturday, September 5th & Sunday, September 6th: Civic Innovation Workshop (Remote)

For more information, contact Dr. Gary Kirk at engage@dickinson.edu

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CENTER FOR CIVIC LEARNING & ACTION