

Meet the Spring 2024 Winners

Challenge: Reimagining Higher Education

The Spring 2024 Social Innovation Challenge invites students or student groups to propose innovative solutions in the arena of **reimagining higher education**. A student perspective is imperative in the pursuit of ideas that are sustainable, innovative, grounded, and relevant in a rapidly changing world.



**Spring 2024
Winners (L to R):
Blake Fullerton,
Isaiah Chantaca,
Colleen Janey**

Isaiah Chantaca won first place in the challenge for his proposal on **Building Native Community Through Mentorship (The Red Path Program)**. From his proposal: *The Red Path program aims to partner with students of the Freshman and Sophomore level with students of either Senior or Junior status, with a mixture of Alumni, to navigate the crazy world of higher education. The program will feed itself with new students who wish to mentor and then allow for the next class of students to come into the program ready to start the cycle again, and continuing to grow the Native population here on campus to allow for not only more outreach for those students to their communities but events for Native students to be held in more volume here on campus, creating that sense of community and involvement.*

Colleen Janey was the first runner up with her proposal **The Motherhood Empowerment Group: Supporting Student Moms**. From her proposal: *The Motherhood Empowerment Group would help reduce the barriers and strains student mothers experience. It will accomplish this through three aspects: facilitated conversations and activities that build community through peer connections, developing and harnessing their inherent abilities, and providing childcare for Women and Gender Equity Center events. Ultimately, the program will help mothers at CSUSM build their sense of community with others of a similar identity, incorporating their personal strengths and experiences to create goals for their future, and achieve social mobility after college.*

Blake Fullerton was the second runner up in this challenge with his proposal for **Athena**, an AI phone calling/SMS integration built of of canvas. From Blake's proposal: *It calls the student and personally reminds them of the assignments, along with data about the assignments that canvas has, (Description, points, turned in, upcoming assignments, etc..). Along with reminders, it will be able to do other commands, such as update calendar, schedule meetings, sent texts...The people that will benefit the most from this will be students and adults that have a short attention span and have a hard time remembering what they need to do, hindering their education.*

[Learn more about our past challenge winners here.](#)

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Please review the [Competition Guide](#).

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