

## Challenge Studio Call for Proposals

### Burt Swersey Inventor's Studio

**Due: Oct 15, 2017**

Do you have an idea that will impact the society and the globe in positive ways? Make life better for others? Do you have a team ready to take on a challenge? With support from the *Lemelson Foundation* in honor of Professor Burt Swersey<sup>1</sup>, Rensselaer will fund two student/faculty teams to address an important challenge that will make our world better and more sustainable.

#### Team and Problem Requirements

Teams must have at least two members. Teams that include students from two or more schools at Rensselaer will be given preference. The problem must not be solely a technical one, but must have clear connection to and impact on society and humanity.

#### Proposal (due **October 15, 2017**)

Proposals should be no more than 5 pages in length, and yes, they could be significantly shorter! The first page must include an Executive Summary (the main problem and its impact, your approach, and the appropriateness of the team). The remaining proposal must include:

- Names and Contact Information for the Students and Faculty
- A statement of the problem within social and technological context
- The proposed solution/approach and why it requires a multidisciplinary team
- A project plan, including a table with timelines for completing specific goals
- A description of how you will assess the impact of your solution
- Any comments on scalability of your solution
- A detailed project budget and brief justification of the proposed expenses

**Proposal Submissions:** Linda Schadler, Vice Provost & Dean of Undergraduate Education  
**Email:** [schadl@rpi.edu](mailto:schadl@rpi.edu)

#### Funding and Support

- A team may seek up to \$10,000 to support the project – be realistic and ask only for what you need.
- Funds may be used for consumable supplies, personnel, travel, and must conform to Rensselaer policies and practices.
- Access to campus resources:
  - Access to various maker spaces and manufacturing facilities across the campus (*e.g.*, Manufacturing Innovation and Learning Laboratory, the Fab Lab in BME, and the Mercer Lab for Student Exploration and Innovation).
  - Access to mentoring, classes, and support from the Eship@RPI team (Severino Center for Technological Entrepreneurship, Emerging Ventures Ecosystem, and Office of Tech Transfer). See <http://eship.rpi.edu> for more.
  - Winning teams will be given space, technical support, leadership training, mentoring in entrepreneurship, and guidance on how to consider the societal and cultural implications of their work.

#### Review

The proposals will be reviewed by a faculty committee from across the Institute.

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<sup>1</sup> Professor Burt Swersey was an innovation and entrepreneurship guru – a legendary teacher and mentor who lit the flame in many Rensselaer students to make a positive difference in the world. He believed that innovative technological solutions will lead to a better and sustainable world. He pushed students to exceed their dreams, both in the classroom and in their business ventures.