



The Center for the Advancement
of Women in Engineering
College of Computing,
Engineering and Construction

UNF CAWE Innovation Challenge

The University of North Florida's Center for the Advancement of Women in Engineering is challenging high schools and middle schools to compete in an innovation challenge by developing a proposal that defines a real world problem that needs solving using science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM). Submissions should address 1) what problem you wish to solve, 2) how you will develop your network that you will use in solving the problem, and 3) how your problem aligns with funding sources.

Eligibility:

- Students in high school or middle school.

Submission details:

- A written proposal submitted as a pdf document (12 pt, Times New Roman), outlining:
 - **The problem you wish to solve** and the impact it has on our world or community (3 pages max). Examples may be related to waste reduction, air/water quality improvement, medicine delivery methods, affordable prosthetics, and global warming. These are only examples, you may come up with problems that are beyond these parameters. You should demonstrate an understanding of the problem at hand by:
 - defining your problem;
 - describing why this problem is important to solve;
 - documenting research of existing solutions, why they work well and why additional solutions should be developed;
 - describing how the problem is related to STEM; and
 - providing a time-line (Starting March 23, 2020 and ending February 8, 2021) on how a solution can be developed.
 - **How you will develop your network that you will use in solving the problem** (1 page max). You need to:
 - demonstrate that you have created a SWE Next chapter at your school, or indicate that you are members of an existing chapter;
 - indicate that you have joined the UNF SWE Next chapter;
 - document how you plan to expand your network in the next year by increasing SWE Next memberships or by increasing engagement of current members; and
 - list mentors (including UNF mentors) and what role they will play in developing a solution.

Mentors can include any person not a student in your SWE Next club assisting you. They may include teachers, parents, professionals, UNF students, or other persons willing to help you solve the problem you propose including, but not limited to, technical, financial, and marketing advice.

- **How your problem aligns with funding sources** (1 page max). Describe how funding sources can be sought to help solve this problem. Your description may include local company sponsors; local, state, or national agencies; or philanthropists interested in developing solutions to this problem. The best proposals this year will be used in developing the CAWE Innovation Challenge problem statements next year. Hence, your funding recommendations should address funding sources that can support efforts beyond those of your school's. Think big! Also, consider funding sources that UNF CAWE can help you seek, or seek together with our SWE Next community.
- **Appendix** (as many pages as needed). List of references, documentation supporting your SWE Next status, acknowledgements by mentors that they will support your efforts, other documentation supporting your proposal as needed.
- Submit proposal as a pdf document via email to CAWE@unf.edu before 8 am on February 10, 2020.
- Finalists are to prepare a power point file and present their 8-10 minute proposal at the Women Leaders in STEM conference at UNF on March, 3 2020.

Timeline:

- November 16, 2019, 10-12:30 am: Challenge kick-off during UNF SWE Next meeting.
- February 10, 2020 8 am. Proposals due via email to CAWE@unf.edu.
- February 17, 2020 5pm. Finalists are notified.
- March 3, 2020: Top three finalists will present their proposals at the Women Leaders in STEM conference held at UNF.

Awards:

- The SWE Next chapters with the best three proposals will have the opportunity to present their work at the Women Leaders in STEM conference scheduled for March 3, 2020 at UNF.
- Winning proposals will be considered for the CAWE Innovation Challenge the following year.
- The finalists (SWE Next chapters) will be awarded \$200, \$300, or \$500.

Resources:

- UNF SWE Next meetings
- UNF SWE Student mentors – available by attending UNF SWE Next meeting or emailing cawe@unf.edu.
- Creating a SWE Next chapter: <https://www.unf.edu/cawe/> (SWE Next button)
- CAWE Facebook page to learn about CAWE Innovation Challenge updates and more: <http://www.facebook.com/TheCAWE>
- UNF SWE Next Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/SWENextUNF/>
- CAWE Instagram: @TheCAWE
- CAWE webpage: <https://www.unf.edu/cawe/>

Support:

To support initiatives to increase the participation of girls and women in STEM, please consider donating: <https://give.unf.edu/CAWE>.