



**For Immediate Release**  
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**International Student Innovators Awarded Top Honors in  
2021 Conrad Challenge Virtual Innovation Summit**  
*Students continue to design a sustainable future for all*

**Houston, Texas** — Eight teams of high school-aged student innovators from around the world were awarded top honors during the 2021 [Conrad Challenge](#) Virtual Innovation Summit, held April 28-30 on the [Hopin](#) platform. The Summit was the final round of the 2020-21 Conrad Challenge, the annual competition that invites students to use their innovative and entrepreneurial skills to create solutions for some of the most pressing global challenges.

In celebration of its 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Conrad Challenge added two new categories focusing on sustainable packaging and protecting the planet's most important resource, the ocean. Over 700 teams from 33 U.S. states and 49 countries registered for the 2020-2021 Conrad Challenge. Of these, 448 advanced to Round 2: The Business Plan. The competition concluded with 45 teams competing in the final round, the Innovation Summit.

The competition commenced in August 2020 as teams began work on the initial entry, the investor pitch, which they submitted in November. Qualifying teams then advanced to the second round and worked through mid-January to develop and refine a business plan, market study and visual representation of their commercially viable solutions. Their products were then reviewed and scored by subject matter experts and judges before the finalist teams in each category were selected.

The 45 finalist teams who competed for top awards at the Virtual Innovation Summit are from ten different countries: Canada, China, Japan, Nigeria, Pakistan, The Republic of Korea, The United Kingdom, Saint Lucia, Vietnam and the United States. Each presented their new product in one of eight categories: Aerospace & Aviation, Cyber-Technology & Security, Energy & Environment, Health & Nutrition, Oceans: The Plastic Pollution Problem, Sustainable Packaging sponsored by Dell Technologies, and Smoke-Free World with: Repurposed Farmlands & Tobacco Crops and Eliminating & Reducing E-Cigarette Usage and Waste. After submitting a video pitch and executive summary, the finalist teams participated in a live video question and answer session with a panel of judges with expertise in business, industry, research and academia.

“The Conrad Innovators continue to tackle a variety of global and local challenges as they work together to design a sustainable future for all humankind,” said Nancy Conrad founding chairman of the Conrad Foundation. “One of the greatest highlights of this Challenge season was seeing collaboration among teams from different schools, cities and countries... especially those made up of members who had never met in person.”

The following teams were recognized as Pete Conrad Scholars, the competition's top award named in honor of Apollo 12 astronaut Charles "Pete" Conrad and his three-decade pursuit of innovation and entrepreneurship:

- Aerospace & Aviation – [SkyeLabs](#), North Carolina, USA
- Cyber-Technology & Security – [TARDIS](#), Virginia and California, USA
- Energy & Environment – [Eutropod](#), Illinois, USA
- Health & Nutrition – [EVAC](#), Pennsylvania, USA
- Dell Technologies: Sustainable Packaging – [Inside the Box](#), Florida, USA
- Oceans: The Plastic Problem – [Jaynel Scovera](#), Vietnam
- Smoke-Free World, Eliminating & Reducing E-Cigarette Usage and Waste – [no morE-waste](#), New Jersey, USA
- Smoke-Free World, Repurposed Farmlands & Tobacco Crops – [ToPADcco](#), Maryland, USA

Each winning team received a distinctive medal and Pete Conrad Scholar certificate, a Dell 2-in-1 Chromebook, a market research assessment from the Wisconsin Innovation Service Center, and a one-year associate membership to Sigma Xi. Individual team members from winning teams are also eligible to receive a \$25,000 per year scholarship to Menlo College, a \$22,000 per year scholarship to Lewis & Clark College, a \$15,000 per year scholarship to Clarkson University, a \$10,000 per year scholarship/partial abatement award to College of Charleston, or a \$2,500 per year grant to Florida Institute of Technology.

An individual Pete Conrad Scholar was selected to attend a [NEXUS Global](#) 2021 event (all expenses paid), while each member of another selected Pete Conrad Scholar team will receive a \$3,000 scholarship to attend the LeanGap Summer Program. Finally, all winning teams have the opportunity to apply for pro bono services from both Arent Fox and Dentons to support the patent process of their innovations.

Dell Technologies sponsored its first category this year with the Sustainable Packaging Challenge asking teams to develop creative ideas for a protective sustainable notebook packaging solution for e-commerce shipping that can withstand a 36" drop, does not utilize plastic, is 100% recyclable and/or compostable, is responsibly sourced and not yet widely used.

"There is nothing better than seeing young people so inspired to come up with innovative ways to solve big societal issues," said Kim Boutwell, North America Strategic Giving Lead for Dell Technologies. "We were completely blown away by the ideas the teams shared to advance sustainable packaging. Our support for The Conrad Challenge underlines our belief that technology has the power to drive positive change, and when combined with the bright minds of tomorrow, there's no limit to what can be achieved."

Smoke-Free World, sponsored by the [Foundation for a Smoke-Free World \(FSFW\)](#), was a category for the third consecutive year and was divided into two distinct subcategories to address specific global challenges. FSFW provided a grant to the Conrad Foundation, which will allow students from the two winning Scholar teams in the Farmlands and E-Cigarette categories to receive a \$1,500 grant per student from the Conrad Foundation. The grant must be used for charitable, educational, or scientific purposes relating to ending smoking in this generation.

The “Power Pitch” awards, also presented by the Conrad Foundation, were earned by the teams who best presented their virtual pitch to the panel of judges. The following teams were recognized with this honor:

- Aerospace & Aviation – [Eir Clean Company](#), New Jersey, USA
- Cyber-Technology & Security – [CAVES](#), Virginia, USA
- Energy & Environment – [SmartBin](#), California, USA
- Health & Nutrition – [Cocoon](#), California, USA
- Dell Technologies: Sustainable Packaging – [Dublo](#), Canada
- Oceans: The Plastic Problem – [Luminet](#), California, USA
- Smoke-Free World, Eliminating & Reducing E-Cigarette Usage and Waste – [NicoTime](#), Pakistan
- Smoke-Free World, Repurposed Farmlands & Tobacco Crops – [PectiGrow](#), Nevada, USA

In addition, the following special awards were also distributed:

- AIAA Scholarship Award: Kirsten Nelson, Eir Clean Company, New Jersey, USA
- Global Collaborator Award: TARDIS with team members from Virginia & California, USA; Warped Perception with team members from Virginia, USA, The United Kingdom & Saint Lucia; Puffy with team members from Massachusetts, USA & The Republic of Korea; Alexis  
1 with team members from New York & Ohio, USA & The Republic of Korea
- Teacher of the Year: Laura Keepax, Gulliver Preparatory, Florida
- Social Media Award: Catalysing Solutions, Isle of Mann

The 2020-21 Conrad Challenge was made possible by the support of its sponsors: Dell Technologies, The Foundation for a Smoke-Free World, Bezos Family Foundation, NASA,

Delaware North, Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex, Carter Ledyard & Milburn LLP, Griffin Communications Group, Arent Fox, Dentons, LeanGap, NEXUS, Tranquility Lodge, Sigma Xi, Wisconsin Innovation Service Center, AIAA, Clarkson University, Menlo College, Lewis & Clark College, College of Charleston, and Florida Institute of Technology. The Challenge was also supported by media partners and champion partners. Learn more about all sponsors and partners [here](#).

[Click here](#) to learn more about the 2020-21 winners. Students and educators interested in participating in the 2021-22 Challenge can sign up to receive more information by visiting [this page](#).

#### About The Conrad Foundation

The Conrad Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting collaborative, student-centered, real world-relevant learning that fosters innovation and entrepreneurship. Through its programs, the Foundation unleashes students' potential to create impactful solutions and a sustainable society for generations to come. For more information, visit [www.conradchallenge.org](http://www.conradchallenge.org).

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