Creating The Future

A departure from today’s hackathons at which sleep-deprived coders gather for a weekend, this competition is designed from the outside-in around needs statements by hospitals, NGOs and communities to solve healthcare and societal challenges. From early detection of infant dehydration to leveraging IoT (Internet of Things) for low-income communities, teams will engineer Intelligent Future devices to solve these issues.

Attendees of Texas A&M Invents for an Intelligent Future can:
• See student innovation in action
• Cheer on their favorite team’s solution
• Help judges select the winning team as they compete for over $10,000 in funding and
• Explore three interactive zones:
  - Try your hand at laparoscopic surgery
  - Explore Mars in a virtual reality environment
  - Drive robots through an obstacle course using on-board video fed into first-person view goggles

Rocket Scientist and Comedian Shayla Rivera, One Defense Founder Stephen P. Rodriguez, National Instruments Vice President of Product Marketing Charles Schroeder, and Director of Aerospace Technology, Research and Operations (ASTRO) Center Gregory Chamitoff will judge the devices.

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Background: Texas A&M Invents for an Intelligent Future is based on the highly successful Aggies Invent make-a-thon developed by the College of Engineering at Texas A&M University. Aggies Invent is a 48-hour intensive innovative design experience hosted in the Engineering Innovation Center (EIC), a 20,000-square-foot rapid prototyping lab. Three times each semester, the program engages 60+ students in multidiscipline, multi-level teams through hands-on projects designed to push their innovation, creativity and communication skills. Each event has a specific theme and is designed in collaboration with industry and faculty. Aggies Invent is now expanding to other universities worldwide as [U] Invent, allowing each university to substitute their own name for [U].

The Competition: Twelve Texas A&M students will display their innovative and creative abilities through this intensive innovative experience. Student teams will engineer solutions to problems that range from medical technology, smart cities and devices, alternative energy, resource limitations, education or security—all within 10 hours. During the two-day event, students will build, modify, demonstrate and market their product to a panel of judges. But the students’ work won’t stop when the weekend is over; Texas A&M will fund each team to further develop their idea and product, and will provide them with all of the resources, mentorship and support necessary to bring their product to commercialization.

Texas A&M Invents for an Intelligent Future takes the engineering experience outside of the lab and places it center stage. You will get to experience the excitement, frustration, thrill and the final pitches as teams race against each other and against the clock to prove to you and the judges that their solution will change the world. Each team has gone through a rigorous process to reach the SXSW stage and you will get to enjoy seeing Texas A&M’s best and brightest.

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About the College:

With 500 tenured/tenure-track faculty members and more than 17,000 students, the Texas A&M University College of Engineering is the second-largest engineering school in the country. The college is ranked seventh in graduate studies, ninth in undergraduate programs, and second in research expenditures among public institutions by U.S. News & World Report, with 10 of the college’s 14 departments ranked in the Top 10.