Goal of Event
Universities provide a unique opportunity to integrate innovative discovery with entrepreneurship and bring about social and economic change. To catalyze the transformation from discovery-based research to market-solution and impact at Sam Houston State University, the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP) and Center for Innovation Technology and Entrepreneurship (CITE) present the inaugural SHSU-Innovation Pitch Competition to be held during the 2023 Scholarly Innovation Summit. This pitch competition will bridge the gap between academia and the marketplace by providing faculty members with a platform to pitch their innovations, technologies, or discoveries with the potential for commercialization. This competition aims to accelerate the translation of SHSU research into real-world solutions.

Eligibility
All tenured, tenure-track, and non-tenured track faculty at Sam Houston State University are eligible to apply.

Submission Outline (Access form here)
1. Tentative Title of Your Pitch
2. Problem Statement (150 words)
3. Solution Description (500 words max)
4. Target Market (75-100 words)
5. Feasibility (50-75 words)
6. Expected Outcomes (250 words max)
7. Future Plans (250 words max)

Timeline (TENTATIVE SUBJECT TO CHANGE)
5 JUL – Send out a call for pitch solicitations.
14 AUG – Deadline for Pitch Proposals
15 AUG – 31 AUG: Review of Pitch Proposals
1 SEP – Pitch Finalist Announced
1 SEP– 22 SEP Finalists will meet with Pitch coaches (provided by The Ion)
26 SEP – Pitch Competition at the Summit in a special session

Pitch Competition Rules
3 minutes
1 Presenter
0 Slides or technology allowed during the competition

Judges (4 Judges; 2 from IP Committee; 2 External)
Award
The top two pitches, as determined by the panel of judges, will receive a special innovation grant to aid in the development of their ideas. Funds may be used for prototyping, proof of concept, and testing.

Other Program Benefits and Expected Outcomes?

• Learn to effectively communicate complex scientific ideas to industry and the public.
• A chance to pitch an idea to a panel of judges for a chance to win recognition and an internal grant award to bring your idea to life.
• An opportunity to get the attention of an investor by introducing them to your research, technology, product, or company.
• Receive real feedback from entrepreneurs and experienced judges.
• An opportunity to build valuable connections with like-minded entrepreneurial peers.