



## 2021 STEM VIRTUAL INNOVATION CHALLENGE FAQ'S

### WHAT IS AN INNOVATION CHALLENGE?

Innovation Challenges are projects that offer high school students the opportunity to collaborate with industry partners to investigate and solve problems relevant to the energy industry. The Challenges are exciting opportunities for students to engage with pressing, real world issues and join the conversations about solving them.

### WHAT ARE THE OBJECTIVES OF INNOVATION CHALLENGES?

- Explore how employers and their talent pipeline partners can co-design and implement business led work-and learn experiences
- Increase awareness for in-demand careers in the energy industry by students, teachers, and parents
- Prepare students for the world of work by providing meaningful experiential learning opportunities and exposing students to professional networks
- Help create next generation of problem solvers - reflect the changing nature of work with students participating on cross-functional teams to build depth and breadth of skills

### HOW DO INNOVATION CHALLENGES WORK?

- Innovation Challenges bring together school and industry partners to expand work-and-learn opportunities that help prepare students with the skills they need to attain jobs in today's global economy.
- Industry and education partners collaborate to design authentic real-world challenges that student teams are asked to research and present proposed solutions. Challenges are structured to link classroom learning with the world of work, address critical student learning outcomes and promote career awareness in the energy industry.
- Student teams and teachers receive an industry overview, review of challenge guidelines, and the Challenge itself. Throughout the Challenge, industry mentors virtually provide expert resources and answer team questions.
- Student teams present their videos virtually at a regional (North, South, East and West) event designed to recognize student achievement and industry collaboration. The winning teams from each region will be virtually invited to a "shark-tank styled" competition and the winning school's team will be awarded \$1,000 for their school and all students on that team will receive a small prize. Students and schools selected as regional winners will receive commendation certificates and a small prize.

**WHAT ARE THE PARTNER RESPONSIBILITIES?**

	SCHOOL PARTNERS	INDUSTRY PARTNERS
<b>Challenge Events:</b> Assist in organizing and attend (VIRTUALLY) key milestone activities such as kick-off event and competition to showcase final project presentations	X	X
<b>Mentorship:</b> Commit to organize company staff members to serve as expert resources to challenge participants with bi-weekly (VIRTUAL) school visits (suggested)		X
<b>Dedicated Classroom Time:</b> Coordinate with industry mentors to schedule biweekly/monthly classroom visits and ensure student teams have weekly classroom time to work on the project	X	X
<b>Team Coaches:</b> Teachers serve as coaches to student teams. It is recommended that most of the student work is self-directed	X	

**HOW ARE INNOVATION CHALLENGES MEASURED?**

A panel of industry judges will evaluate student presentations using a Challenge rubric developed by CEWD.