

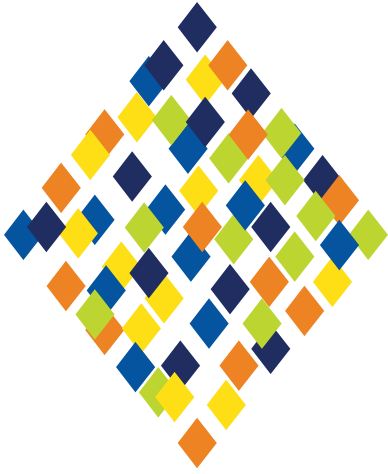


Paul & Linda McConnell Youth
Entrepreneurship Initiative

HORN PROGRAM IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP



Mentoring Program



Diamond Challenge for High School Entrepreneurs

The University of Delaware Horn Program in Entrepreneurship created the Diamond Challenge to provide high school students from around the world with an opportunity to learn about entrepreneurship by putting their ideas into action. The Diamond Challenge is a new venture concept competition. Students compete for cash awards that may be used to support their startup or social venture or pursue higher education.

Participating in the Diamond Challenge:

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1
Conceive an idea for a new business or social venture
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2
Learn how to formulate the idea into a business or social impact model and systematically test it by gathering evidence
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3
Receive support from an innovative online curriculum and interactive mentoring sessions
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4
Pitch the idea by submitting a written concept and delivering a presentation
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5
Benefit from life-changing opportunities at no cost

YES!

YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP SUMMIT

SAVE THE DATE

April 7, 2017

Youth Entrepreneurship Summit (YES!)

YES! is a full-day event for national and international high school students and educators that features interactive workshops, engaging speakers, and the final round of the Diamond Challenge. YES! celebrates the entrepreneurial spirit, creates and nurtures lifelong connections, and provides resources to empower students to consider entrepreneurship as a viable career path.

Impact

100% of participants report that participation is a valuable learning experience.

“ The Diamond Challenge is a very meaningful competition for us, and we learned a lot from this three-day journey.

Actually, getting into the semifinal round came as quite a surprise when we first heard this news. During the competition we realized that the best learning opportunity came from our competitors. As an international group, we sometimes felt shy because of the different culture and different language, but we never felt lonely there. The friendly treatment afforded us the indescribable memories. With the experience of this journey, all members of our team became more mature and outgoing, and it was a useful lesson for us although we did not advance to finals.

What an unforgettable memory! In the end, thank you again for inviting us to America, we appreciate it very much!

”

- Frankie Hao, leader of Pea Band
2016 Business Concept semifinalist
from Beijing, China

“ Yesterday was one of the most amazing days of my life.

The entire Polar Solis team is so thankful for the opportunity we were given and is ecstatic with the prize we were awarded. We all wanted to thank YES!, the University of Delaware, and the Diamond Challenge for such an amazing event!

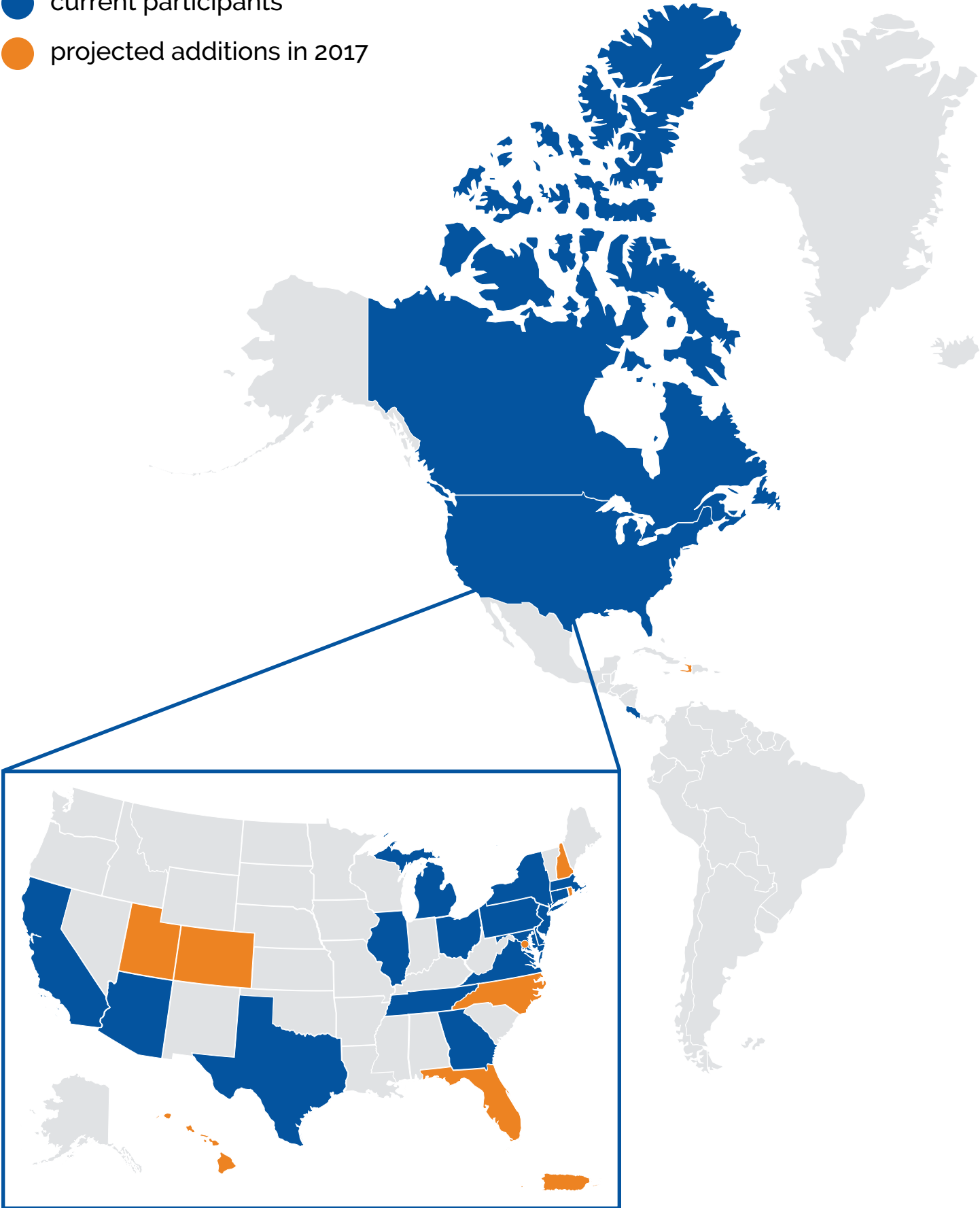
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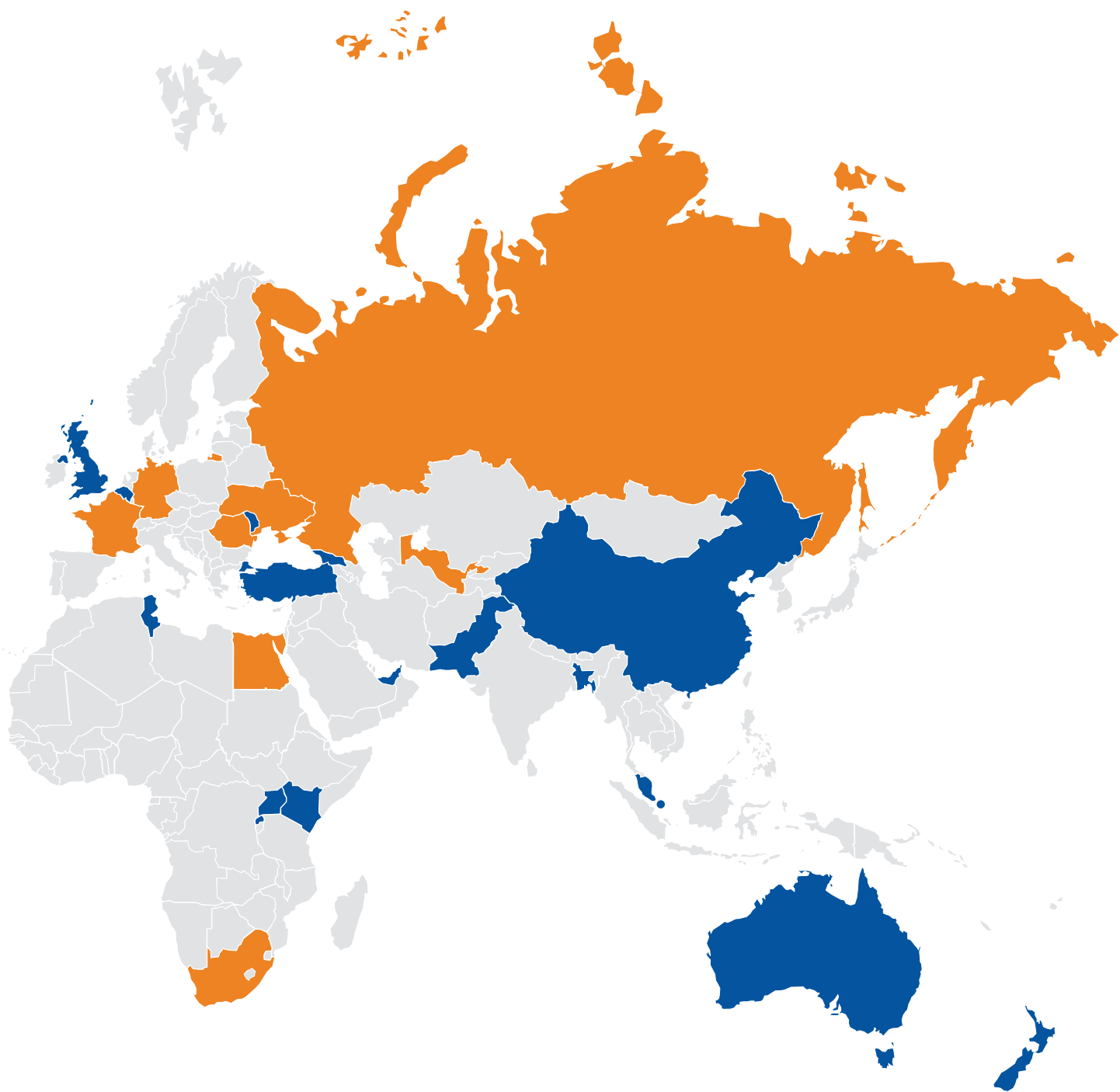
- Julian Davis and the Polar Solis team,
2016 Business Concept 2nd place
from California, USA



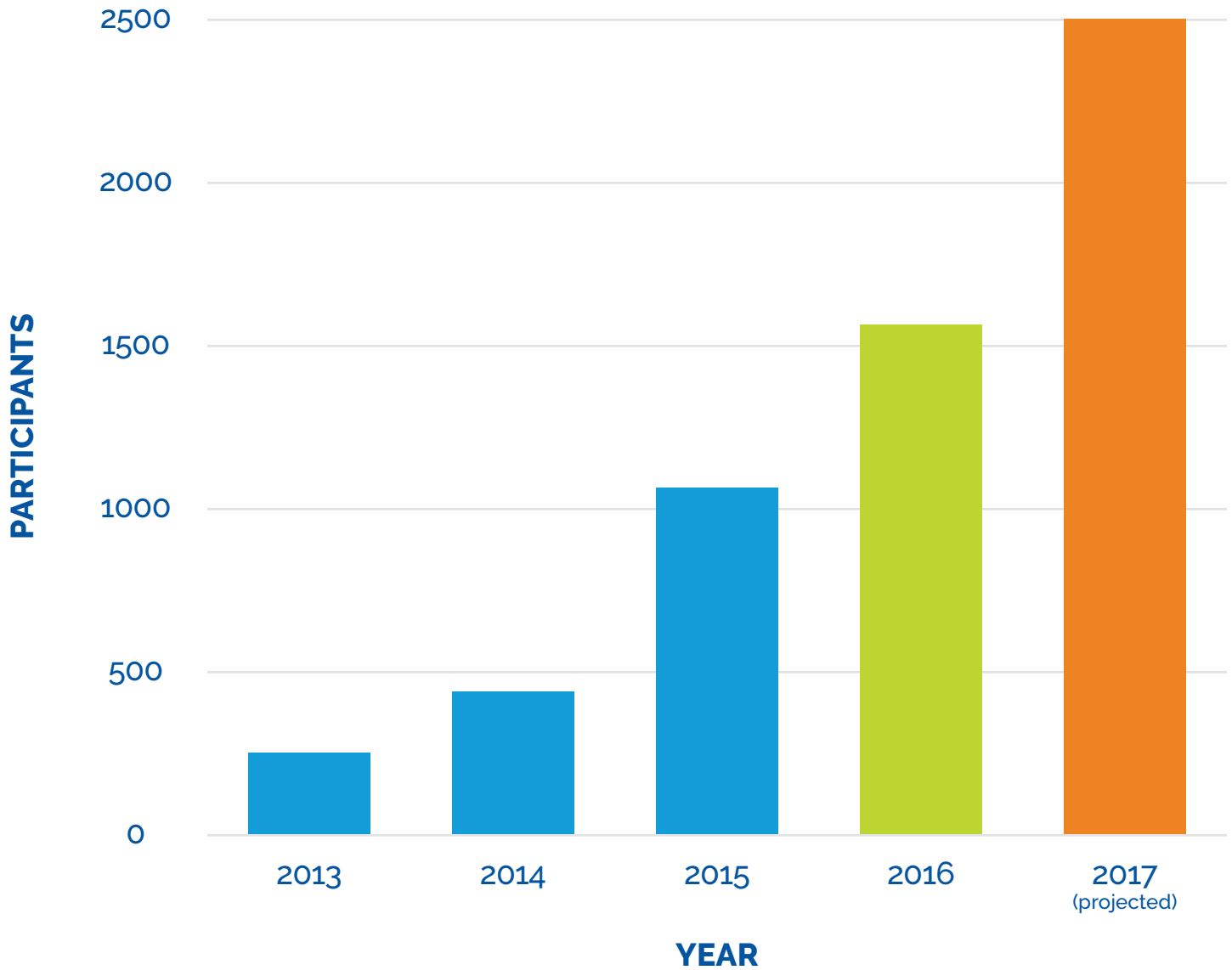
Global Reach

- current participants
- projected additions in 2017





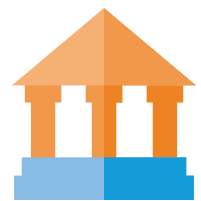
Diamond Challenge Participants



1500+
students



370+
advisors



155+
schools

Become a Mentor

The Diamond Challenge, a venture concept competition for high school students, is seeking mentors to virtually advise student teams from October through January of 2017.

The Diamond Challenge was created in 2012 by the University of Delaware's Horn Program in Entrepreneurship with a twofold purpose:

1. to expose high school students to entrepreneurship as a viable career path
2. to provide high school students with an outstanding opportunity to learn about the entrepreneurial process while attempting to put their ideas for new businesses into action.

Since its launch, almost 2,000 students from around the world have participated in the Diamond Challenge.

About Mentoring

Mentors supplement the support provided by Diamond Challenge team advisors by sharing their experiences and domain expertise with student teams. The best mentors are great listeners and coaches who help students to recognize what they don't know and connect them to the help and resources they need.

How it Works

Mentoring generally requires one or two hours to onboard new mentors. This process involves gaining an understanding of your background and availability as well as an introduction to the Diamond Challenge and its curriculum, which focuses on evidence-based entrepreneurship. Thereafter, mentors choose their frequency of availability. We generally recommend about two to three hours per week for the weeks of greatest activity by student teams (December to mid-January, with holiday breaks).

Mentors create a profile on our mentoring platform and fill out a short matching survey to get paired with teams. Mentors then set up their availability and student teams schedule video chat or phone sessions. After each session, teams are surveyed about their experience. The mentoring period for Diamond Challenge 2017 is: October 1-January 22. Mentoring sessions are scheduled in advance based on mentor and team availability. Teams are instructed to share specific questions or topics for discussion prior to each session.



Interested? Fill out our web form at www.diamondchallenge.org/community/mentors or email info@diamondchallenge.org

About the Horn Program's Paul & Linda McConnell Youth Entrepreneurship Initiative

The Horn Program's Paul & Linda McConnell Youth Entrepreneurship Initiative aims to inspire the next generation of entrepreneurs by providing world-class educational experiences centered on creativity, innovation and action-oriented programming. The initiative empowers young people by helping them to recognize that everything they call life was made by people and can be changed. It also gives them the knowledge, skills, connections and access to resources needed to begin making the world one they would want to live in.

About the Horn Program

The University of Delaware Horn Program in Entrepreneurship ignites imaginations and empowers world changers through entrepreneurial education. Our offerings emphasize experiential learning, evidence-based entrepreneurship and active engagement with entrepreneurs, business leaders and members of the broader entrepreneurial ecosystem. Participation in Horn Program courses and co-curricular activities provides students with the knowledge, skills, connections and access to resources needed to create, deliver and capture value from new ideas and thrive in our rapidly changing world.



Horn Program
in Entrepreneurship

