

ANNUAL REPORT | 2024

Report prepared by Professors
Hallie Neupert & Kristy Weidman



Catalyze Klamath aims to **support business ideas and/or fledgling entrepreneurial activity** from any field of study that produces a new idea, product, or service that could become a thriving business in Klamath Falls and has the potential for job growth in rural Oregon.



CATALYZE KLAMATH ANNUAL REPORT | 2024

Mission

Catalyze Klamath propels entrepreneurship and innovation providing a pathway that educates and inspires Oregon Tech students moving them beyond the classroom for their advancement and that of the university and the community.

Oregon Tech's Catalyze Klamath Challenge has been a huge success for student competitors and the Klamath Falls community. Over the past nine years, student/alumni teams have competed for over \$100,000 in prize money and services.

Sponsors

The 2024 event was made possible through generous sponsorships and donations from AVISTA, the City of Klamath Falls, Klamath County, Klamath County Economic Development Association (KCEDA), Klamath IDEA, Small Business Development Center (SBDC), Sky Lakes Office of Strategy & Innovation, Cypress Creek, VertueLab, and the Wendt Family Foundation.

Nine student teams across both campuses competed in the 2024 competition.

Catalyze Klamath continues to grow and attract a diversity of participants from a variety of Oregon Tech degree programs.

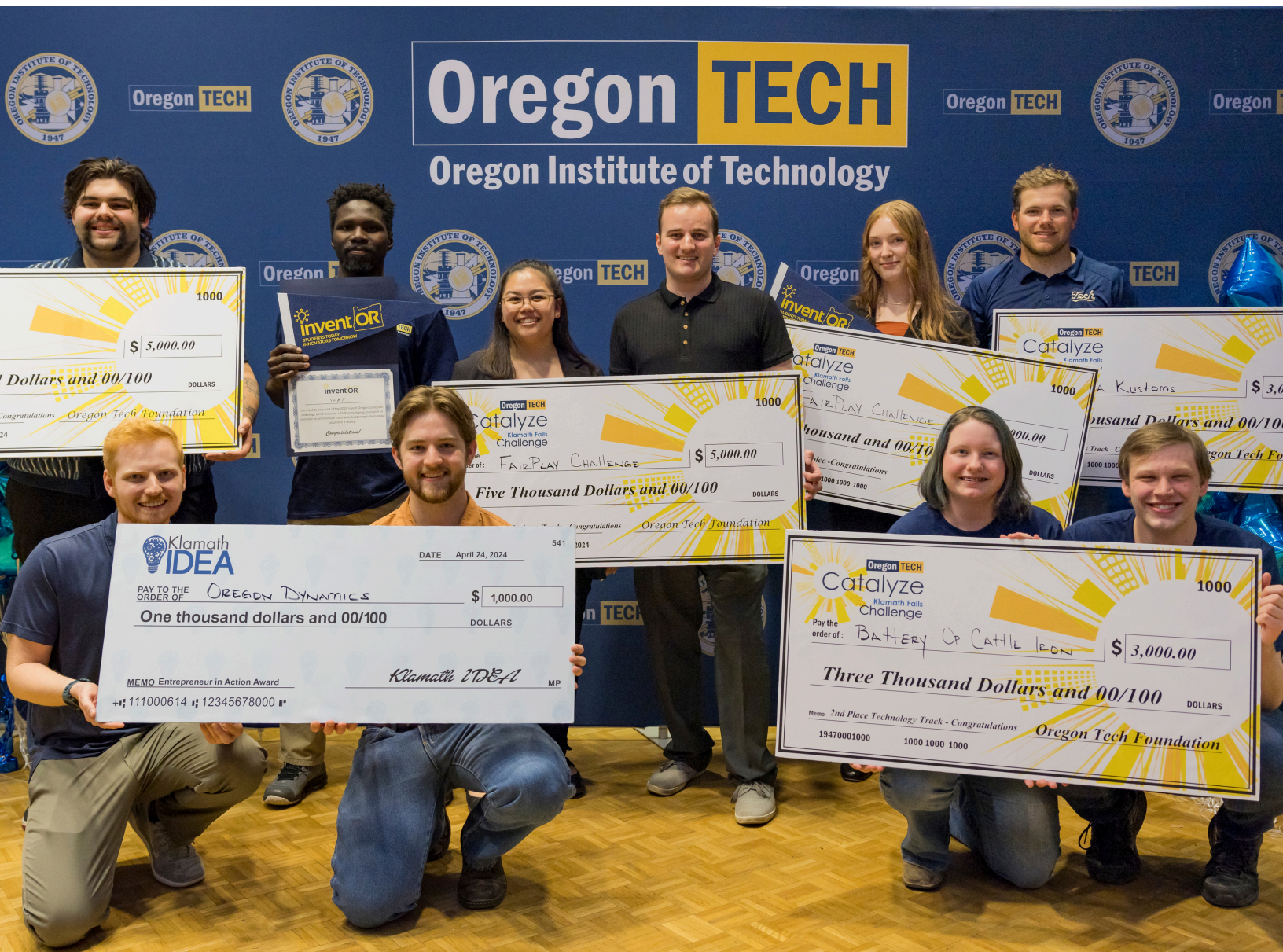


CATALYZE KLAMATH ANNUAL REPORT | 2024

Prize Package

Catalyze Klamath 2024 included contestants from Business Management, Information Technology, Renewable Energy Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Marketing, Manufacturing Engineering, and Electrical Engineering.

Due to increased funding from local sponsors, we were able to expand the prize package to include a first and second place business track and a first and second place technology track. Contestants also had an opportunity to win the People's Choice Award; Entrepreneur-In-Action Award, and an invitation to InventOR, Oregon's only college-level prototyping competition.



2024 Winners



**Business Track, First Place | \$5,000 |
People's Choice Award | \$1,000 |
Invitation to InventOR**

Project Name: FairPlay Challenge
Students: Grant Kightlinger and Molly Grace
Degree Program: Business Marketing



Business Track, Second Place | \$3,000

Project Name: Kekoa Kustoms
Student: Cody Dubray
Degree Program: Mechanical Engineering



**Technology Track, First Place | \$5,000 |
Invitation to InventOR**

Project Name: Automatic Field Tourniquet
Students: Carter Stewart (pictured) and Emmett Allen (not pictured)
Degree Program: Mechanical Engineering



Technology Track, Second Place | \$3,000

Project Name: Battery Operated Cattle Iron
Students: Risa Thompson, Taveon Malnack and Ben Goodwin (not pictured)
Degree Programs: Business Management, Electrical Engineering, and Mechanical Engineering

CATALYZE KLAMATH ANNUAL REPORT | 2024

2024 Winners



Entrepreneur-In-Action Award | \$1,000

Project Name: Oregon Dynamics

Students: Fletcher Stults and Graeme Wiltrot

Degree Programs: Manufacturing

Engineering and Electrical Engineering



Invitation to InventOR

Project Name: Solar Energy Protection Technology

Student: Adama Toure

Degree Program: Renewable Energy Engineering

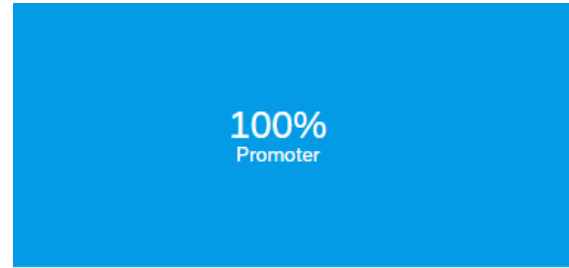
Won Visionary Award at InventOR Finals



Student Survey Results and Comments

Net Promoter Score

Following the 2024 competition, contestants were sent a brief survey regarding their Catalyze experience. This was the first year that we have elicited feedback from our students. When asked the question: **“How likely are you to recommend participating in Catalyze to a friend, peer, or prospective student?”** 100% of respondents are promoters (scoring 9/10 and 10/10).



■ Detractor ■ Passive ■ Promoter

“It was a great experience to get to prep for a business competition. I thought it was a really great practical way to apply all the concepts learned in the past four years. Getting to present an idea before judges in a legitimate competition was also super enjoyable for me as well.

--Management Student

“Great organization and great format that allows participants to learn from the experience and improve their business idea.

--Mechanical Engineering Student

“I feel like we were constantly supported in our efforts and it ran extremely smoothly.

--Marketing Student

“The people involved, both judges and OIT staff were amazing, as well as the other competing groups.

--Electrical Engineering Student

“I had fun participating on the day of the event, and I felt prepared and confident after taking the BUS 335 class. The extra little events also helped me get familiar with the people I would interact with and the environment I presented in.

--Information Technology Student

Student Survey Results and Comments

Student Value Survey Question:

“Briefly describe the value you received from participating in Catalyze.”

“

Catalyze was great for getting feedback on my idea and gaining experience in telling people about it. Catalyze helped me focus on the important features on what will make my idea succeed as a business. It also helped me learn how to convey my idea to others.

”

“

I now have an increased level of confidence in my abilities. I also feel that I know the process of creating a business and networking in the community.

”

“

Incredible value/development gained in the follow areas: - Entrepreneurship - Business Plan Development - Presentation - Networking - Business Research - Relative Tools.

”

“

So much personal growth and knowledge when it comes to entrepreneurship.

”

Sponsors

Catalyze Klamath is made possible by the generous support of our sponsors. This year, Catalyze sponsors contributed almost \$20,000 in seed money to support our student entrepreneurs.

