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Conrad Challenge Recognizes Record Number of Student Teams for Final Events

More than 170 student entrepreneurs to compete in final round of global STEM competition

HOUSTON – The Conrad Foundation has announced its competitors for the final round of the 2021-2022 <u>Conrad Challenge</u> (Challenge), one of the most highly regarded global STEM innovation and entrepreneurship competitions for high school students. For the first time, the Challenge has announced ten Finalist teams in each of its categories, giving more than 50 teams of 2-5 students the opportunity to present their innovations to an esteemed panel of judges. Judging will take place during two final events: a Virtual Finals Showcase, as well as an in-person Innovation Summit in Houston, TX.

More than 2,000 students worldwide entered the 2021-2022 Conrad Challenge last fall, working together across oceans and time zones, to design sustainable solutions to global challenges. In January, expert judges began scoring student business plans in the following Challenge categories: Aerospace & Aviation, Cyber-Technology & Security (presented by Dell Technologies), Energy & Environment, Health & Nutrition and Re-purposed Farmlands & Alternative Uses of Tobacco (presented by the Foundation for a Smoke-Free World). The Finalists competing this spring will come from more than 15 U.S. states and 12 countries worldwide. Learn more about this year's top competitors here.

"This generation of students has proven to us that they are unstoppable," said Nancy Conrad, founder and chair of the Conrad Foundation. "They have continued to invent and collaborate despite the many obstacles of the last two years. We are humbled by their determination and thrilled to hold two separate events giving each of our Finalist teams the opportunity to share and develop their innovations."

This year the final round of the Challenge will return to an in-person format with the Innovation Summit at <u>Space Center Houston</u> and <u>NASA's Johnson Space Center</u> in Houston, TX, April 26-29, 2022. The Innovation Summit will serve as the platform for the Challenge's top teams in each category to compete for a variety of prizes and awards, including the title of Pete Conrad Scholar, the Challenge's top honor. Additional Finalist teams will be featured at the Virtual Finals Showcase taking place April 11-12, 2022 via the online event platform, <u>Hopin</u>. Throughout both events, students, educators, Challenge alumni, subject matter experts, judges and corporate sponsors alike will be able to network and interact, further building Conrad's global community of innovators.

In addition to support from Dell Technologies and Foundation for a Smoke-Free World, the Challenge's return to an in-person Innovation Summit has been made possible by <u>Battelle</u> and <u>United Launch Alliance</u>. For more information about the Conrad Challenge, visit <u>www.conradchallenge.org</u>.

About the Conrad Foundation

The Conrad Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting collaborative, student-centered, real-world, relevant learning that fosters innovation and entrepreneurship. Through its programs, the Foundation unleashes students' potential to create impactful solutions and a sustainable society for generations to come. For more information about the Conrad Foundation, its Challenge, or the 2021-2022 competition, visit www.conradchallenge.org.

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