



Institute for
Digital InnovAtion



THE WEEKLY

UPCOMING EVENTS

CEC Innovation Week

CEC Innovation Week Schedule of Events - *Feb 17-21, 2025*

Register [here](#) to participate for the events.

George Mason University
College of Engineering and Computing

INNOVATION WEEK

DESIGN YOUR FUTURE

February 17-21, 2025



The College of Engineering and Computing (CEC) at George Mason University invites you to take part in our 2025 Innovation Week (I-Week) events. I-Week brings together university students, faculty, staff, and professionals from engineering, computing, and across STEM to celebrate those whose ideas and developments shape our world. Each year, our events aim to connect, create, and design a future that inspires and empowers us all. We look forward to celebrating with you.



DAY 1 PATHWAYS TO THE FUTURE: Find Your Way to STEM

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17 • 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

CEC Atrium, Room 2001

Long and Kimmy Nguyen Engineering Building, Fairfax Campus

The CEC's inspiring and immersive college visit day is designed to spark high school students' passion for innovation and exploration and to illuminate the countless opportunities within science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Northern Virginia students visiting the CEC will discover how their interests and talents can shape the world of tomorrow with a campus tour, an in-class visit, a networking session, and more. CEC students who would like to volunteer to connect with our K-12 students during the networking session can register [here](#).

DAY 2 DESIGN YOUR FUTURE WORKFORCE LOOK: Present, Engage, and Network

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18 • 11 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

ENG Stackable Conference Room 1604

Long and Kimmy Nguyen Engineering Building, Fairfax Campus

Get career-ready with confidence. All undergraduate and graduate STEM students heading to the University's Spring Career Fair with a STEM focus are encouraged to browse and take FREE professional attire from the CEC's Professional Clothing Closet. Whether you're preparing for the upcoming face-to-face with an industry professional in STEM or gearing up for interviews and networking opportunities, we've got you covered with stylish and professional outfits to help you make an impression.

DAY 3 RESEARCH, PRESENT, AND MOTIVATE THE FUTURE: Engage, Compete, and Present

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19 • 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

CEC Atrium

Long and Kimmy Nguyen Engineering Building, Fairfax Campus

Calling all undergraduate students. Register to join us for the "Design the Future" Research Poster Competition, where you can share your research, creativity, and problem-solving skills. This is your chance to present your STEM and/or interdisciplinary innovative ideas to a judging panel of CEC alumni and corporate partners. Whether you're exploring innovative technologies or tackling real-world issues, your work has the potential to mold tomorrow. Don't miss this opportunity to share your insights, gain valuable feedback, and make an impact. We will award prizes for first, second, and third place.

DAY 4 RESEARCH, EXPLORE, AND INNOVATE FOR CHANGE: Imagine, Inspire, and Transform

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20 • 12:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

CEC Atrium

Long and Kimmy Nguyen Engineering Building, Fairfax Campus

Graduate students, this is your moment. Register to submit your abstract to participate in the "Designing Change" Research Poster Competition and present your cutting-edge research to a distinguished panel of CEC alumni and industry leaders judges. Compete for top prizes and highlight how your work drives innovation and contributes to shaping the future. We are especially interested in interdisciplinary research. This is an ideal opportunity to share your expertise, connect with corporate partners, and demonstrate the impactful potential of your research. Join us and lead the way in designing tomorrow.

DAY 5 MORNING SHAPING THE FUTURE: The Power of STEM Education, Policy, and Cross-Disciplinary Collaboration in Education

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21 • 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Ground floor, Johnson Center Cinema

Johnson Center Building, Fairfax Campus

Students, faculty, and staff are invited to register to join CEC for an insightful discussion with Quincy K. Brown, an accomplished computer scientist, educator, and former Senior Policy Advisor in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. She is an expert on STEM education, policy development, cross-agency collaboration, and workforce initiatives in technology and space.

Brown will explore how interdisciplinary collaboration across research, teaching, and administration can drive innovation and shape the future of higher education. Her expertise offers valuable perspectives for faculty, students, and administrators, providing practical insights on integrating technology into education, fostering diverse research partnerships, and preparing the next generation of STEM leaders.

DAY 5 EVENING THE FUTURE IN THE SPOTLIGHT: A Night of Talent and Creativity

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21 • 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Taylor Hall, 10444 Presidents Park Drive

George Mason University Fairfax Campus

Close out I-Week and sign up for CEC's exciting Talent Showcase that celebrates the creativity and diversity of our STEM students. Whether you sing, play an instrument, dance, recite poetry, act, or have a unique skill to share, this is your chance to win a prize while stepping into the spotlight and showing off your talents outside the classroom and lab. Not performing? No problem. Come cheer on your peers and enjoy an evening of entertainment, inspiration, food and fun. Snacks will be provided.

VARIOUS OPPORTUNITIES

xTechIgnite Competition is Open for Submissions

The U.S. Army xTech Program is now accepting concept white paper submissions for the xTechIgnite competition and awarding up to \$400,000 in cash prizes and the opportunity to submit an Army Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) proposal.

The xTechIgnite competition is seeking cutting-edge technology solutions from small, independent U.S. businesses that will drive significant military capabilities while addressing complex challenges and enhancing national security.

Concept white paper submissions must be received by **5:00 PM ET on March 12, 2025**.

If you are interested in participating in the competition or learning more about the program, please visit the [Army xTech Program website](#) and check out the attached flyer.



U.S. ARMY

TECH|IGNITE



CONTRIBUTE TO ADVANCING THE ARMY'S MISSION THROUGH THE XTECHIGNITE COMPETITION

The Army xTech Program is seeking innovative technology solutions from U.S. small businesses that address critical capability needs across participating Program Executive Offices (PEOs). The competition is awarding up to \$400,000 in cash prizes and the Army Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program is awarding up to \$27M in Army SBIR awards.

KEY BENEFITS

		
DIRECT ACCESS AND EXPOSURE TO ARMY AND DOD STAKEHOLDERS	TRANSPARENT AND DETAILED FEEDBACK FROM MULTI-DISCIPLINARY EXPERTS	EARN CASH PRIZES & AN OPPORTUNITY TO SUBMIT A PHASE I OR DIRECT TO PHASE II SBIR PROPOSAL

The U.S. Army is interested in cutting-edge technology solutions related to the following topics:

- ▶ **TOPIC 1:** Innovative Operations for Treatment and Processing of Wastewater
- ▶ **TOPIC 2:** Generative AI-enabled Tactical Network
- ▶ **TOPIC 3:** Bridge Health Monitoring (BHM) System
- ▶ **TOPIC 4:** Ruggedized Sensors to Increase Driving Visibility and Vehicle Safety
- ▶ **TOPIC 5:** Artificial Intelligence for Aided Driving of Ground Combat Vehicles
- ▶ **TOPIC 6:** AI – Enabled Source Selection
- ▶ **TOPIC 7:** AI – Enabled Portfolio Management
- ▶ **TOPIC 8:** Novel AI Techniques for Insights in Various Environments (NATIVE)

The xTechignite competition will accept submissions until 5 p.m. ET on March 12, 2025. For real-time updates, and to learn more about the competition, follow us on social media and visit our website at www.xtech.army.mil.



"Design the Future" Research Poster Comp

Calling all *undergraduate* STEM students!

Join the College of Engineering and Computing for the "Design the Future" Research Poster Competition, where you can exhibit your research, creativity, and problem-solving skills. Present your innovative ideas to a judging panel of CEC alumni and corporate partners and compete for first, second, and third-place prizes!

Email cecosse@gmu.edu for more details



Designing Change-Research Poster Contest

Graduate STEM students, this is your moment! Take part on the College of Engineering and Computing's "Designing Change" Research Poster Competition and present your cutting-edge research to a distinguished panel of CEC alumni and industry leaders judges.



Compete for top prizes and highlight how your work drives innovation and contributes to shaping the future. This is an ideal opportunity to share your expertise, connect with corporate partners, and demonstrate the impactful potential of your research. Join us and lead the way in designing tomorrow!

Email cecosse@gmu.edu for more details.

AWARDS

Congratulations to:

Sun, Kun from the [College of Computing and Engineering](#) for receiving the Naval Sea Systems Command grant on *TRACER: Threat Resilience Assessment for Cyber Evaluation Readiness*

Wei, Mingkui from the [Cyber Security Engineering Dept](#) for receiving the US Department of Defense (US DOD) grant on *2024 Comms 01 Covert Communications to Working Dogs*

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

[Expeditions in Computing \(Expeditions\) - Directorate for Computer and Information Sciences and Engineering/NSF](#)

Deadline: March 31, 2025

[BRAIN Initiative: Brain-Behavior Quantification and Synchronization – Next Generation Sensor Technology Development - National Institute of Mental Health/NIH/DHHS](#)

Deadline: May 14, 2025

Deadline: Sept 30, 2025

***If a funding opportunity limits the number of applications the university can submit, it will be posted and managed through the Research Development Services office. Please contact limited@gmu.edu or Sheila Davis sdavis46@gmu.edu if you have questions or are unsure if the opportunity is a limited submission opportunity.

— IDIA AFFILIATION —

Did you know that, as an IDIA faculty affiliate, you are eligible to:

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There is no financial burden to you or your departments for affiliation with the institute. Participation in IDIA does not prevent its members from being associated with other university centers. If you are not already affiliated, we encourage you to submit your profile [here](#).

— SHARE WITH US —

We are eager to hear from you! As we work with your colleges to compile updates on digital innovation-related research activities at Mason, we would love to hear about your research activities, awards, and recent publications. Please share any successes, concerns, or ideas with us at idia2@gmu.edu





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