

Winning teams announced in 2018 Novel Tech Challenge

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Members of team Helmet Lock created innovative new headwear and won \$1,000 as the audience's favorite project and the \$5,000 first place prize in the Novel Tech Challenge's novice division. They received checks and plaques from emeritus dean of science and engineering Nick Altiero, center. (Photo by Cheryl Gerber)

On Friday, April 13, nine student teams faced off for more than \$20,000 in prizes during the final round of the fourth annual [Novel Tech Challenge](#), funded by the [Burton D. Morgan Foundation](#).

The challenge was organized through a collaboration between the [School of Science and Engineering](#), the [Albert LePage Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation](#) and

the [Office of Technology Transfer and Intellectual Property Development](#).

Teams composed of undergraduate students, graduate students and doctoral candidates presented their prototypes to a panel of alumni judges in hopes of receiving funding for their technological projects.

“Shouldn’t safety of all things be convenient?”

— *Alex Todorovic, Tulane second-year student*

Emeritus dean of science and engineering [Nick Altiero](#) presented the winners with checks and plaques engraved in the [Tulane MakerSpace](#).

Competing in the experienced division, School of Medicine students Theodore Brown, Michelle McCarthy, Jorge Nagel, Chenchen Feng and Thomas Ya took the competition’s top prize of \$10,000.

“One of the first things that we learned in medical school is how important blood pressure is as an indicator of overall patient health,” said McCarthy.

McCarthy’s team developed No Pressure, a non-invasive blood pressure monitoring system using portable ultrasound technology.

Jessica Motherwell and Nick Hodges scored the runner-up \$4,000 prize in the competition’s experienced division for their product called MesoVue — a tissue on a chip device for preclinical drug screening.

Adrian Jones, Bridget Daugherty and Adrianna Aliquo won the novice division’s runner-up \$2,000 prize for their project called GI ReFlow, a biliary stent coated with an additive that prevents biofilm accumulation and infection.

Aiming to make wearing helmets more convenient for bike riders, members of team Helmet Lock, Daniel Bolus, Greg Marzo, Alex Todorovic and Daniel Kruzel, created innovative new headwear — a combined bicycle helmet and lock.

“Riders don’t have a place to store their lock while riding and no means of securing their helmet when their bike is parked. Shouldn’t safety of all things be convenient?” asked Tulane second-year student Alex Todorovic.

The invention ultimately helped the team secure two prizes — \$1,000 as the audience’s favorite project and the \$5,000 first place prize in the competition’s

novice division.



Members of team No Pressure, winners of the competition's top prize of \$10,000, pose with emeritus dean of science and engineering Nick Altiero. (Photo by Cheryl Gerber)