



PVAMU RESEARCH & INNOVATION TO HOST INAUGURAL “PANTHERS INVENT” STUDENT CONTEST

Sandia National Laboratories is sponsoring the Shark Tank-like contest with a \$1,000 top prize.

PRAIRIE VIEW, Texas (August 24, 2021) – Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU) will launch an innovation competition challenging students to tackle real-life problems. **Panthers Invent** is a new initiative by the PVAMU Division of Research & Innovation (R&I) led by its Center for Innovation, Commercialization, Entrepreneurship, and Economic Development, or ICEED. Sandia National Laboratories is sponsoring the three-day **Panthers Invent** September 17-19, 2021.

“**Panthers Invent** is a design challenge that promotes innovation, entrepreneurship, and collaboration among students of all backgrounds,” said Bobby Melvin, ICEED executive director. “We’re following Sandia’s successful format used at universities around the country, where interested students will be given real-life design “needs statements to compete for best product/solution, including potential commercialization of that solution via a startup company.”

PVAMU Vice President for Research & Innovation Magesh Rajan, Ph.D., P.E., welcomes the opportunity to support the innovation ecosystem at Prairie View A&M by showcasing the ingenuity of students and faculty mentors and the cutting-edge technology available across campus.

“This agreement between Sandia and ICEED aligns with the vision I have for Prairie View A&M in becoming an emerging institution in research and innovation. **Panthers Invent** is a great innovation collaboration between PVAMU and Sandia that gives our student scholars a new platform to showcase their brilliance and resiliency,” Rajan said.

“Sandia National Laboratories is excited to be part of this weekend as we hope to attract some of the amazing Prairie View students to tackle national security problems at the labs. **Panthers Invent** provides the opportunity to tackle a project in a weekend, develop a demonstration, and provide a final presentation with a video highlighting their work,” said Sandia’s Chrisma Jackson, senior manager for Special Projects and Use Control and PVAMU/TAMU campus executive, Advanced Systems and Transformation, Nuclear Deterrence Modernization and Transformation.

“We are excited about our first **Panthers Invent** student competition. This contest allows students to put their creativity to the test in real-world scenarios. Students will be mentored by industry leaders from some of the top firms and have a chance to win up to \$1,000,” said Stephanie Garner, ICEED program specialist.

What: **Panthers Invent**

When: Friday, September 17, 2021, 4 p.m. – Sunday, September 19, 2021, 4 p.m. CDT

Where: Prairie View A&M University Fabrication Center, 100 University Drive, Prairie View, TX 77446

For more information on “Panthers Invent,” contact Stephanie Garner, slgarner@pvamu.edu, (936) 261-1576.

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About Prairie View A&M University: Designated as an institution of “the first class” in the Texas Constitution, Prairie View A&M University is the second-oldest public institution of higher education in the state. With an established reputation for producing engineers, nurses, and educators, PVAMU offers baccalaureate degrees, master’s degrees, and doctoral degree programs through eight colleges and schools. A member of The Texas A&M University System, the university is dedicated to fulfilling its land-grant mission of achieving excellence in teaching, research, and service. For more information regarding PVAMU, visit www.pvamu.edu.

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