



2017-18 Competition

Round 2: Proof of Concept

February 2, 2018

Meet the Judges



Faith Knutsen

FAITH KNUTSEN is the Director of Social Entrepreneurship and Innovation at Ohio University's Voinovich School of Leadership & Public Affairs, where she is employed since 2008. She directs the Social Enterprise Ecosystem program, bringing venture development services to social enterprises in rural SE Ohio and contiguous states. She manages regional pitch competitions for K-12 and college entrepreneurs and lectures in entrepreneurial ecosystem development, venture development toolkits, and grantwriting.



Bryan Waller

BRYAN WALLER started his business, JaniSource, at the age of 15. Thirty years later, JaniSource has become the leading source of commercial cleaning services, supplies and equipment in the greater Ohio Valley. JaniSource ships products to customers all over the United States. Bryan is passionate about his hometown, Marietta. He has recently become an integral participant in community efforts to beautify the city and bring new business into the area. It is his mission to keep growing his business and to help other young entrepreneurs reach their goals.



Carrie White

Dr. CARRIE WHITE is the Director of WVU LaunchLab, the innovation resource center for students interested in starting a business. Prior to joining WVU, Carrie was the Director of the Center for Entrepreneurship at West Liberty University. She also was a Professor of Entrepreneurship and Law. From 1996-2004, Carrie owned and operated two small businesses. She started Event Pros, a sports event promotion company and Fitness Dynamics training studio which was a sport specific fitness training facility. Carrie holds a JD and EdD.

Meet the Award Winners



From left to right:

Patrick Moran & Jake Duvall (Senior Petroleum Engineering major): BarKart Project- tied for second place,

Derek Krieg (Junior Petroleum Engineering major) & Sebastian Ziaja: Oilfield Basics Project-tied for second place,

Faith Knutsen (judge), Bryan Waller (judge), Carrie White (judge),

Drew Layton (Senior Biochemistry major): Good Gear Backpacking Project-fourth place,
Courtney Knoch (Senior English major): Everyday Oasis Food Truck Park Project- first place and Bizarre Bazaar-fifth place,

Tyler Gutberlet: Good Gear Backpacking Project-fourth place