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Blue Ocean Student Entrepreneur Competition Empowers Next Generation of Innovators

Top high school students from around the world recognized for their innovative blue ocean business ideas

May 20, 2026

The Blue Ocean Student Entrepreneur Competition is excited to announce the winners of the 2026 competition. With participation from 23,000+ students representing 9,000+ schools from 173 countries and 50 US states in 2026, the world's largest virtual entrepreneurship competition for high school students showcases the most innovative blue ocean ideas to solve the world's most pressing problems.

Global Awards

| Place | Business Idea | Participants | School(s) | Location |
|------------------------------|--|--|---|-------------|
| 1st Place | Storythm | Taeyang Kim, Shannon Kim | Chadwick International | South Korea |
| 2nd Place | Dermi | Angie Xiu, Alex Mi | Carmel High School | USA |
| 3rd Place | Accumulus Regenerative Concrete | Arnav Sinha, Samuel Ma, Peixuan Zhan, Sharika Sinha | Bellarmino College Preparatory, Presentation High School | USA |
| People's Choice Award | PoTo | Khoi Nguyen Nguyen Vu Huy Nguyen, Long Pham, Ngoc My Linh Nguyen, Le Bao Chau Do | Concordia International School, True North International School, Hanoi, Vinschool Harmony High School, British Vietnamese International School Hanoi, Maya School | Vietnam |

Regional Awards

North America

| Place | Business Idea | Participants | School(s) | Location |
|-----------|-----------------|---|--|----------|
| 1st Place | Cardia | Karishma Balamurugan | Amity Regional High School | USA |
| 2nd Place | VOCL | Idhant Ranjan, Atharva Vaze, James Zhou, Jayden Chiou, Craig De Fiest | Neuqua Valley High School | USA |
| 3rd Place | Aegis-SL | Krish Kulkarni, Pravith Muniapalle, Aarnav Trivedi, Abhinav Jammula | Flower Mound High School, Rock Ridge High School | USA |

Europe

| Place | Business Idea | Participants | School(s) | Location |
|-----------|-------------------|---|-------------------------------------|----------|
| 1st Place | Openpulse | Mateo Mamaladze, Juan Rivera | Maria-Theresia-Gymnasium, Sevenoaks | Germany |
| 2nd Place | Hist-Alert | Eralp Kumcuoğlu, Bekir Emirhan İlhan, Onur Mete Maden | Sinav College High School | Turkey |
| 3rd Place | OncoHarbor | Alisa Krivolapova | HSE Lyceum | Russia |

Latin America

| Place | Business Idea | Participants | School(s) | Location |
|-----------|-----------------|--|---|-----------|
| 1st Place | ENZILOOP | Ada Ayala | ORT Argentina | Argentina |
| 2nd Place | Flair | Gabriela Meneghel, André Silva, Jaeyoung Shin, Maria Valentina Gaiotto | Colégio Luiz de Queiroz | Brazil |
| 3rd Place | AerlyPap | Geraldine Dávila, Geraldine Nelly Dávila Antón, Leonardo Edmundo De La Cruz Inocente, Alexis André Ospino Gutierrez, Cristiano Gerardo | Colegio Mayor Secundario Presidente del Perú – COAR | Lima |

| Place | Business Idea | Participants | School(s) | Location |
|-------|---------------|---------------------------|-----------|----------|
| | | Sebastián Gonzales Castro | | |

Asia & Oceania

| Place | Business Idea | Participants | School(s) | Location |
|------------------|--------------------|--|---------------------------------------|----------|
| 1st Place | MotoSaas | Sean Terdprisant, Akka Asvanund | International School Bangkok | Thailand |
| 2nd Place | Jal Sanchay | Anika Agrawal, Akshita Jain, Mayan Raika, Aahan Lahoti, Shreyashi Poudel | Jayshree Periwal International School | India |
| 3rd Place | MangiCare | Nutvarit Manorotchatrong, Yujun Sung | Ruamrudee International School | Thailand |

Africa

| Place | Business Idea | Participants | School(s) | Location |
|------------------|----------------|--|---|----------|
| 1st Place | NexGrid | Ejimofo Ifeyinwa Stephanie, Nnaemeka Sophia Chiamaka, Eze Emmanuel Chukwuemeka, Anyaeche-Ken Chiagoziem Jonpaul, Okpalanze MMesoma Stephanie | St Albert the Great School, St Albert the Great Schools | Nigeria |
| 2nd Place | Kiwiko | Praise Obhahie | University Preparatory Secondary School | Nigeria |
| 3rd Place | Koriva | Mmesoma Nnamene | Miketery International School | Nigeria |

Middle East

| Place | Business Idea | Participants | School(s) | Location |
|-----------|---------------|---|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1st Place | HeatCue | Azaan Jaleel Muhammed | Queens International School | Qatar |
| 2nd Place | PocketPhysio | Danyal Asgar | Kings' School Al Barsha | United Arab Emirates |
| 3rd Place | AlziDetect | Ali-Mansur Valiyev, Harihar Rengan, Eklavya Tomar, Borui Zhu | Dubai College | United Arab Emirates |

The World's Largest Virtual Entrepreneurship Competition for High School Students

Inspired by Chan Kim and Renée Mauborgne's Blue Ocean Strategy and the blue ocean way of thinking, the Blue Ocean Student Entrepreneur Competition was founded in 2014 by Nicholas Benavides, a young budding high school entrepreneur, with the mission to prepare high school students for the real world of entrepreneurship and empower them to create blue ocean businesses.

The first edition of the Blue Ocean Student Entrepreneur Competition in 2014 was at the county level, which then quickly expanded to state, and then the countrywide competition. Today it has become the largest and the most prestigious virtual entrepreneurship competition providing high school students an opportunity to compete at the global level. Participation is 100% free for all students.

Blue Ocean Student Entrepreneurs Corp, the non-profit running the competition also recognizes and awards outstanding educators and schools for their significant contribution to preparing high school students for the real world of entrepreneurship.

Top 5 Schools with Most Submissions – 2026

| School | Location |
|--|-----------------|
| South Brunswick High School | New Jersey, USA |
| Jayshree Periwal International School | India |
| Munster High School | Indiana, USA |
| Ward Melville High School | New York, USA |
| Thomas Jefferson High School of Science & Technology | Virginia, USA |

School with Most Pitches that Made it to Top 100 – 2025: Cupertino High School, California, US

Blue Ocean Teacher Champions – 2026

We are proud to recognize our 2026 Blue Ocean Teacher Champions for their outstanding commitment to guiding and inspiring the next generation of innovators. Their dedication played a key role in this year’s record-breaking competition. In recognition of his exceptional mentorship and tireless efforts to spread blue ocean entrepreneurship, Eric Sera was named the competition’s first-ever “Blue Ocean Super Teacher Champion”—a new honor celebrating extraordinary leadership in youth entrepreneurship.

Blue Ocean Teacher Super Champions

| Name | School / Center |
|----------------|--|
| Eric Sera | Munster High School, Indiana, USA |
| Şebnem Gürler | Çorlu Science and Art Center, Turkey |
| Aditi Bhargava | Indus International School, Bangalore, India |

Teacher Champions

| Name | School |
|---------------------|--|
| Sajeewa Ranasinghe | Gateway College Dahiwala, Sri Lanka |
| Spencer Burrows | Pacific Ridge School, California, USA |
| Deepthy Satyanathan | The Samhita Academy, India |
| Dilek Erdas | İSTEK Belde Anadolu Lisesi, Turkey |
| Stephanie Benavides | Lincoln Park Academy, Florida, USA |
| Khokon Mahmud | Glenrich International High School, Bangladesh |
| Sarah McCance | Fountain Valley High School, California, USA |
| Sana Abdul Salam | Aga Khan School Garden, Pakistan |
| John Mark E. Ludor | NU Fairview Senior High School, Philippines |
| Ousmane Diallo | Mentari Intercultural School, Jakarta, Indonesia |
| Allan Gunawan | Tzuchi School, Indonesia |
| Ebong Michael | LEAD Academy, Uganda |
| Yaroslavna Karpova | Ayeyarwaddy International School, Myanmar |
| Abigail Vallente | Southville International School and Colleges |
| Daniel Onyango | Ragwe Mixed Secondary School |
| Erwin Racasa | Nick Joaquin Senior High School |
| Geleena Gestiada | Asia Pacific College |
| Henrik Graversen | Herningsholm Erhvervsskole og Gymnasier |

| | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Jassen Dowling | Holt High School |
| Kimakwa Godfrey | Kaimosi Girls High School |
| Rekha Jain | Medicaps University |

Blue Ocean Student Ambassadors – 2026

The 2026 competition also sees growth of the **Blue Ocean Student Ambassadors Program**, a vibrant community of high-achieving students – **already 700 strong from 56 countries and growing** – who champion blue ocean entrepreneurship and inspire peers while developing critical leadership skills that enhance their future prospects.

Blue Ocean Student Super Ambassadors

| Name | School / Institution |
|---------------------|---|
| Aditya Yadav | S.R.S. International School, Patti Pratapgarh, Uttar Pradesh, India |
| Krethi Karthik | Ruh Continuum School, India |
| Aarnav Chandraganti | George Washington University Online High School, Texas, USA |
| Rounak Nayak | Blossom Public School, Pune, India |
| Aiza Mohammad | Heritage High School, Texas, India |
| Shoriful Islam | Shaheed Police Smrity College, Dhaka, Bangladesh |
| Nargiza Zufarova | Tashkent University of information technologies, Uzbekistan |
| Mahrus Yunus | Glenrich International School Uttara, Bangladesh |

Outstanding Blue Ocean Student Ambassadors

| Name | School / Institution |
|------------------------|---|
| Abdullah Al Araf Furat | Kanchkura Provati Kg & High School, Bangladesh |
| Ahinyoke Vickeli Iba | Makurdi International Secondary School, Nigeria |
| Akshay Agarwal | Neerja Modi School, India |
| Aman Kumar | Sunbeam, India |
| Annik Choudhary | USA |

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Anushka Yeole | St. Lawrence, India |
| Atharva Naik | Indus Altum International School Belagavi, India |
| Bera Gumruk | Thomas Jefferson High School For Science And Technology, USA |
| Brandon Walker | Munster High School, USA |
| Chalita Dono | Bashewam, Ethiopia |
| Chukwuemeka Nnamene | Command Day Secondary School Enugu, Nigeria |
| Guru Nakkala | International School Wassenaar, Netherlands |
| Heldana Mewael | Ethiopia |
| Jai Sivasankar | Chantilly High School, USA |
| Md. Nayem Nayem | Udayan Uchcha Madhyamik Bidyalaya, Bangladesh |
| Meerab Fatima | Pakistan International School Buraydah, Saudi Arabia |
| Njini Lefeh | Gbhs Etoug Ebe, Cameroon |
| Rithik Vinay | Ssvm World School, India |
| Salsabila Assyfa | Al Fityan Moslem Senior High School, Indonesia |
| Siddhi Jain | Medi Caps International School, India |
| Simran Singh Janjhua | International School Wassenaar, Netherlands |
| Sirraaj Singh | Alliance Academy For Innovation, USA |

Why the Competition Matters

75% of new jobs in our economy are created by entrepreneurs every year.

The Blue Ocean Student Entrepreneur Competition empowers students, as young as 15 years old, to get involved in solving new and pressing programs and start businesses that create new jobs.

4 out of 5 students can't get a job when they graduate from college. Youth unemployment is three times higher than adult unemployment.

The Blue Ocean Student Entrepreneur Competition prepares high school students for the real world of global competition and empowers them to create jobs for themselves and others.

72% of high school students have considered starting their own business, yet 62% are never offered a course in entrepreneurship.

High school students are our most underutilized creative resource – if we can successfully engage their talents, we'll unlock innovative solutions to the world's most pressing problems.

What's Unique About the Competition?

The competition challenges students to develop a 5-min pitch for a blue ocean business idea – one that stands apart from the competition; delivers innovative value at low cost; and produces win-win outcomes for everyone involved. It also encourages students to operationalize their blue ocean ideas into commercially viable businesses.

The competition gives high school students a chance to present their innovative business ideas, hone their pitching skills, earn cash prizes, and build resumes that stand out from the crowd when applying for college. Most of all, they learn how to create businesses that stand out from the competition, creating blue oceans of new market space.

Fosters a diverse and inclusive environment that promotes innovation and creativity

The Blue Ocean Student Entrepreneur Competition attracts the very best high school student entrepreneurs from all over the world. Participation is 100% free for all students, which levels the playing field and provides equal access to opportunities for aspiring entrepreneurs regardless of their socioeconomic background or nationality.

Democratizes access to a world-class education for high school students globally

The competition empowers students to think creatively and innovatively by providing them with Blue Ocean Strategy tools and frameworks to develop their ideas. To date, over 20,000 high school students have taken the Blue Ocean Mini-Course, an online course covering Blue Ocean Strategy, which is taught at nearly 3,000 universities worldwide, including the top U.S. business schools. Free access to world-class education promotes equal educational opportunities and helps bridge the divide empowering youth to create businesses of tomorrow.

The Blue Ocean Competition is a Blue Ocean in itself

The Blue Ocean Student Entrepreneur Competition effectively opened up a blue ocean of new market space in the world's youth. Blue ocean strategy is the only leading business theory that penetrated high schools and offers a unique and innovative approach to promoting entrepreneurship among high school-aged students.

“As these high school students applied blue ocean strategies to develop solutions to some of the most pressing issues facing our planet and society, they became better prepared to make a positive difference in the world that we live in.”

— Ilian Mihov, Dean, INSEAD

The competition is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit in the State of Maryland, USA.

Contact

Blue Ocean Student Entrepreneur Competition

Zunaira Munir Ph.D. (Zee)

Executive Director, Blue Ocean Student Entrepreneurs

ED@blueoceancompetition.org

Tel: +1-858-284-959

<https://blueoceancompetition.org/>