



# **GEOHERMAL RISING**

**ENERGIZING OUR RENEWABLE FUTURE**

WEBCAST SERIES



## **Full Steam Ahead**



**GEOHERMAL  
RISING NEXT  
GEN GEO**

**September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024 11:00-12:30Pm CT Zoom webinar**

**The role collegiate competitions play in growing and  
strengthening the geothermal industry**



**Thank you to our members that make this possible!**



**Earth Energy Visionaries**

Thank you to our members that make this possible!



Geothermal Champion Members

# Webinar Overview and Objectives

- Brief intro from our panelists
  - Where they are from, which competition they participated in and what their geothermal focus was on
- Questions to our panelists
- Overview of Switch Case Competition and DOE Geothermal Collegiate Competition
- Wrap up questions
- Q&A from attendees

## Objective

- Highlight the impact these project-based competitions have on preparing our next generation of geothermal leaders and workers
- Provide information on how students and industry mentors can get involved

# Collegiate Competition Panelists



**Nickolas Fry**  
*Thermal Energy Networks  
Market Lead, Jacobs*



**Fidelis Onwuagba**  
2023 Switch Case Competition  
1st place team-EnerGreen



**Jessica Eagle Bluestone**  
Tribal Community Engagement  
Manager, Geothermal Rising








**Kaitochukwu Chukwudi**  
Project Engineer, PESO Energy  
Nigeria



**Alex Martin**  
Masters student at the Iceland  
School of Energy

# INTRODUCTION



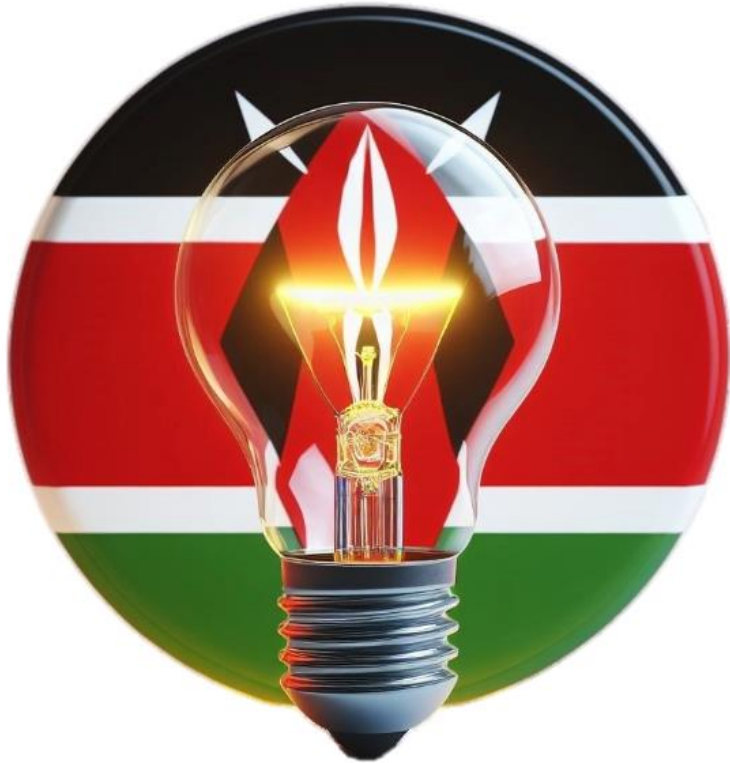
-  Kaitochukwu Chukwudi (Kaito)
-  Chemical Engineering, Nnamdi Azikiwe University
-  Intern, Switch Energy Alliance (Switch Alumni Network)
-  Project Engineer, PESO Energy, Nigeria
-  2023 Switch International Energy Case Competition  
First Place Winner (Team EnerGreen)

**Full Steam Ahead Webinar: Geothermal Workforce and the Role of Collegiate Competitions**

**September 17th, 2024**

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# KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF ENERGREEN'S SIECC PROJECT



- Evaluating the Energy situation in Kenya and seeing its feasibility in transferring the solution to Bangladesh.
- Kenya's energy mix as of 2023 highlighted a whopping 41% to Geothermal Energy.
- Our solution, LightUP Kenya, projects to provide at least 95% energy access by 2033 and increase electricity capacity to 5,000MW by 2033 as well.
- The proposed solution which entails on-grid system expansion utilizing geothermal energy plus battery storage system, will remove 1.95 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per year.

**Full Steam Ahead Webinar: Geothermal Workforce and the Role of Collegiate Competitions**

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## Various GCC Participation

- **Geothermal District Heating in Colorado (2019)**
- **Geothermal District Heating in North Dakota (2021)**
- **Mentor for borehole thermal energy storage and district heating in Alaska (2024)**



Nicholas Fry  
**Jacobs** | Geothermal Consultant, Thermal  
Energy Networks Market Lead

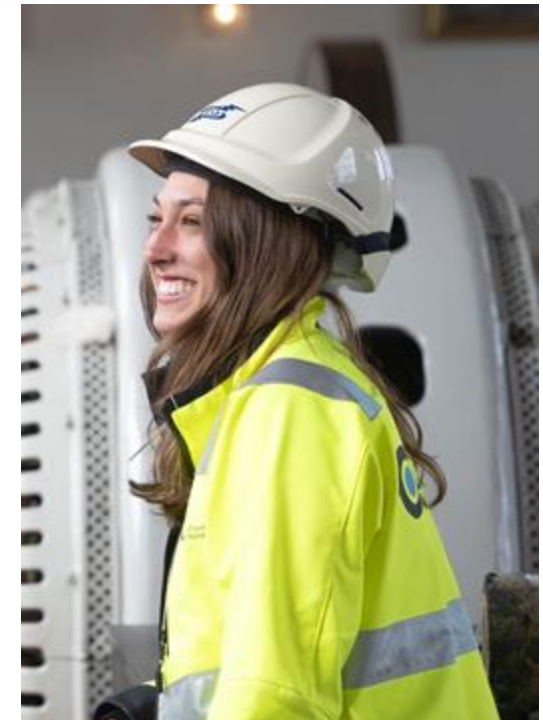
**Full Steam Ahead Webinar: Geothermal Workforce  
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**September 17th, 2024**



# Alex Martin

- **Education**
  - BS Environmental Engineering, University of Colorado Boulder
  - MS Sustainable Energy Engineering, Iceland School of Energy (Feb 2025)
- **Experience**
  - Reykjavik Energy, Egg Geo LLC, Plant Operator
- **Geothermal Collegiate Competition**
  - 2022 3rd place CU Boulder Team
  - Local non profit HVAC replacement w/ heat pumps
  - Labs and lessons for ages 7-16

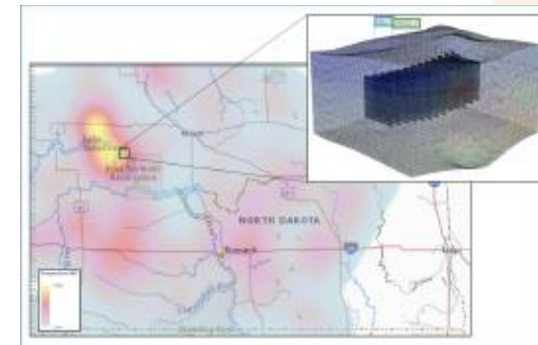
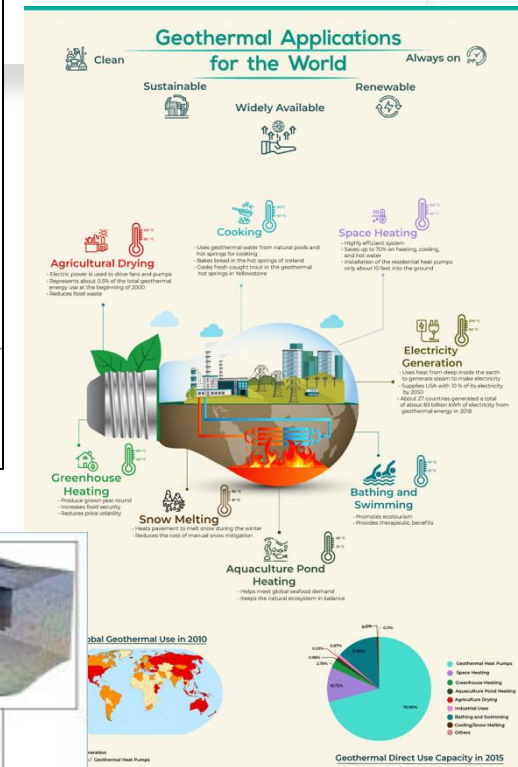
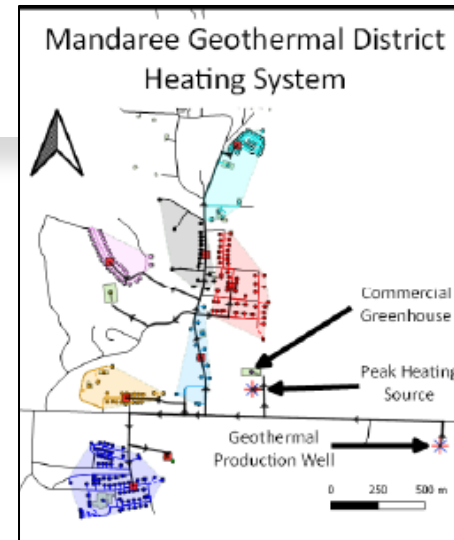


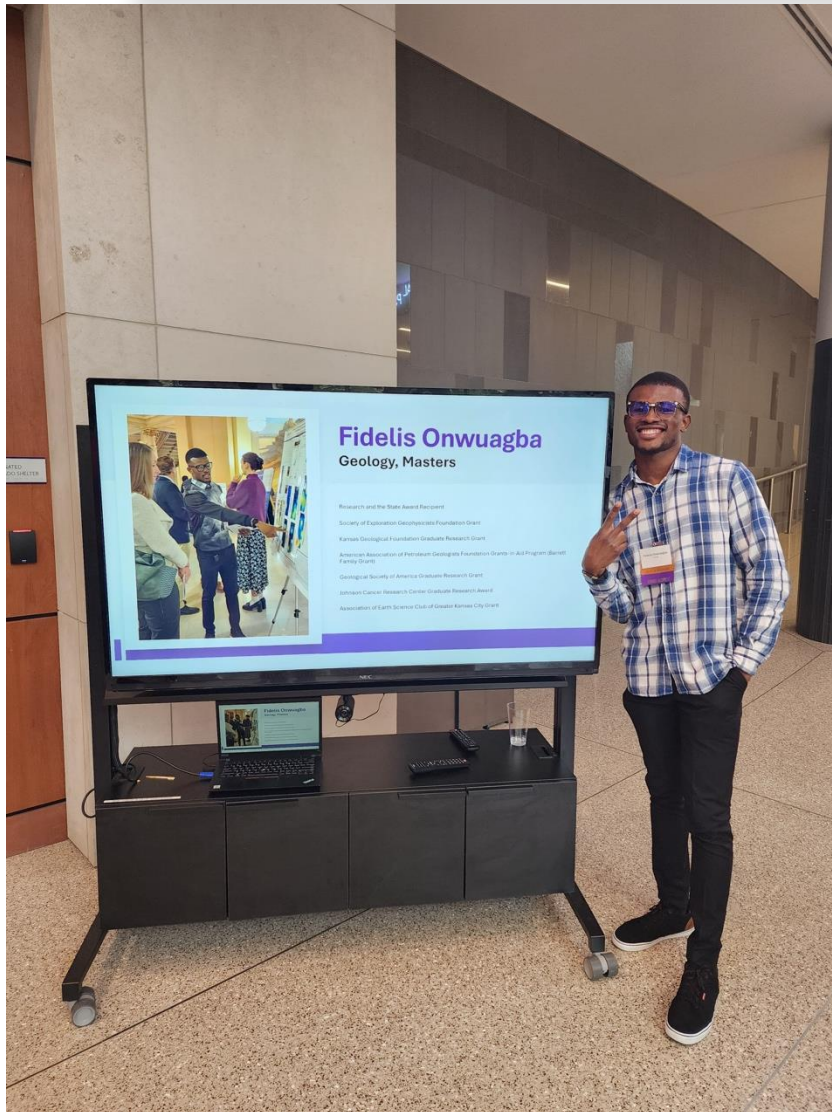
# Jessica Eagle-Bluestone

- Geothermal Rising-Tribal Community Engagement Manager
- MHA Nation- Energy Advisor
- Tribal Energy Consortium- Vice-President

Participated in GCC- Team Geothermal Vision

- Fall 2020- Infographics **1<sup>st</sup> Place**
- Spring 2021- Community Geothermal **1<sup>st</sup> Place**
- 2022 Collegiate Competition **2<sup>nd</sup> Place**





- Ph.D. Student (Geology) – University of Kansas
- MSc. (Geology) – Kansas State University
- BSc. (Geological Science) – Nnamdi Azikiwe University

## • Competition Participated

**Switch International Energy Case Competition (1<sup>st</sup> position)  
(November 2023)**

- **Project – Light Up Kenya!**
- ✓ **Scope Summary:**
- Develop Clean Energy Solutions for Kenya and evaluate their transferability to Bangladesh**

### SWITCH ENERGY ALLIANCE CASE COMPETITION 2023

**Team EneGreen**

KENYA BANGLADESH

**Team 149**  
Team Mentor: Babajide Sokeye

**SWITCH ENERGY ALLIANCE**

Chinazaekpere Arukwe Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Nigeria	Fidelis Onwuagba Kansas State University, United States
Ogonna Emenaha Uppsala University, Sweden	Kaitochukwu Chukwudi Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Nigeria



# Switch Competition

COLLABORATE. COMPETE. INSPIRE.

**Full Steam Ahead Webinar: Geothermal Workforce  
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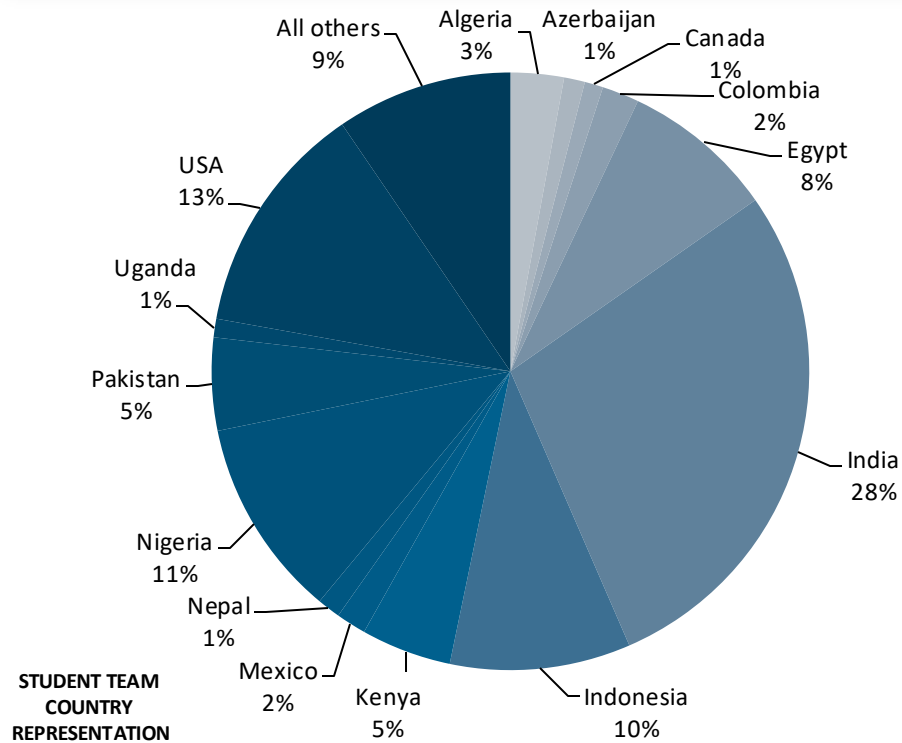
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# Switch Competition Overview

- Annual competition for university students focused on solving global energy poverty
- Teams have 3 weeks to research the issue and create a presentation explaining their solution.
- Presentations are submitted and reviewed by judges in up to 2 rounds, that result in selection of the top 5 teams to compete in the Final Judging Round
- Winners share \$25,000 prize package, apply for internships



# Global reach



**Since 2020, 3,200 student participants, 800 teams from 55 countries, & 700+ professional volunteers**

# Mark your calendar!

SEPT  
**01**  
2024

Switch Competition  
registration opens

SEPT  
**27**  
2024

Switch Competition  
registration ends

SEPT  
**30**  
2024

Competition begins,  
teams receive  
case packets

OCT  
**06**  
2024

Teams must submit  
scenario of choice

OCT  
**27**  
2024

Preliminary Round  
submission deadline

NOV  
**01**  
2024

Semifinalists announced

NOV  
**05**  
2024

Finalists announced

NOV  
**09**  
2024

Final Judging Round, live

# Switch Competition goals



Understand the widespread nature of energy poverty, its impact on people's daily lives, and the broader energy justice issues brought on by energy poverty globally.



Analyze and compare the factors contributing to energy poverty in different countries.



Consider how best practices in one country might be implemented in an analogous country.



Consider the impact of government energy policies on a country's economic development.



Network with energy professionals

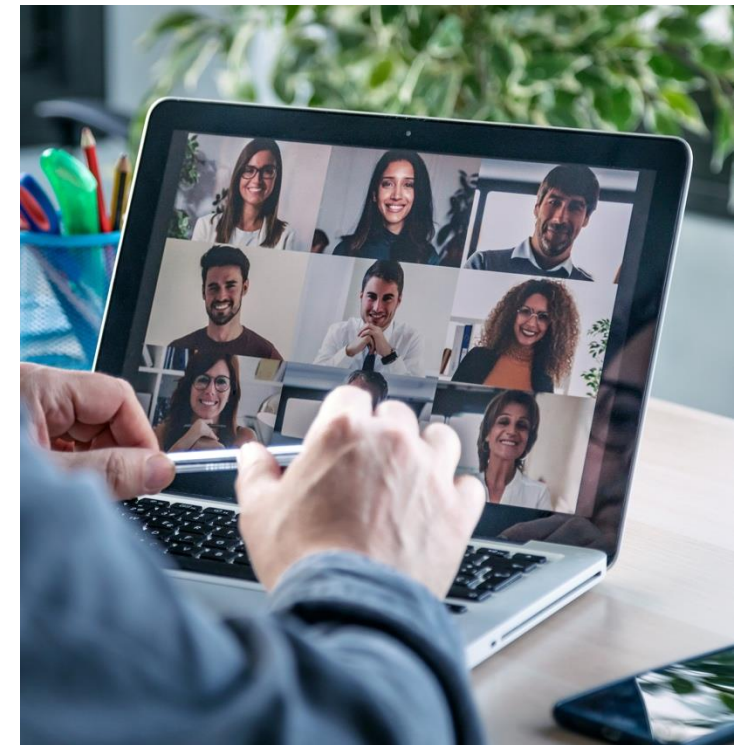


# 2024 Prompt

1. Select a pair of countries
2. Conduct a thorough comparative energy analysis of the energy landscapes in both countries
3. Propose a 10-year plan for one of the two countries
  - Design (resource use, avoid imports, consider stakeholder engagement)
  - Implementation – 10-year timeline, within given budget
  - Impact (environmental, social, financial, political)
4. Evaluate the feasibility of transferring the 10-year plan to the second country
5. Record a concise and well-structured video presentation of no more than 15 minutes with a complementary PowerPoint presentation

# Mentoring & Judging

- Mentors
  - Guide & encourage 1 or more teams
  - Meet once weekly for 30 minutes, October 7th - October 27<sup>th</sup>
- Judges
  - Prelims – all submissions, review October 28-October 31
  - Semifinals – Top team in each Region + next highest-scoring 15 teams overall, review November 1-4
  - Finals – Top 5 teams, review November 5-8, live on November 9<sup>th</sup>
- Workshops to be offered for Mentors, Judges, & Team Leaders



# Social Media Contest



- An optional multi-stage engagement event designed to amplify the competition's social media presence, promote community among teams, and raise public awareness about energy poverty
- Variable scoring based on likes, comments, & shares
- One winner selected from each of five(5) regions, with highest-scoring teams sharing \$1200 USD prize package
- Winning teams announced during the live Final Judging Round

# Switch Alumni Network



Connect & engage with former competition participants



Increase participation in the Switch Competition



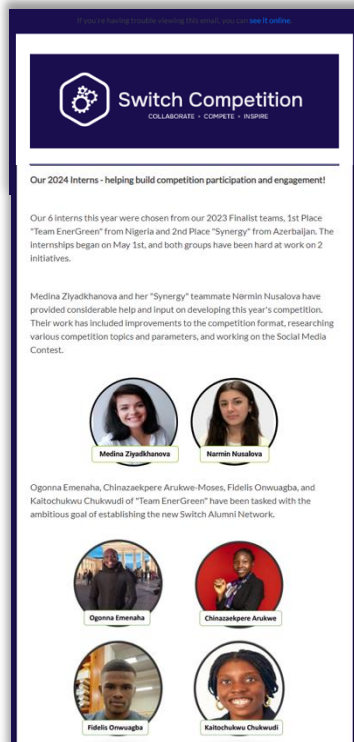
Engage professional organizations & past/current volunteers to support SEA's programs



Create partnerships with global organizations conducting energy installations and other practical deployments related to energy poverty for SAN members to engage with for a hands-on global experience



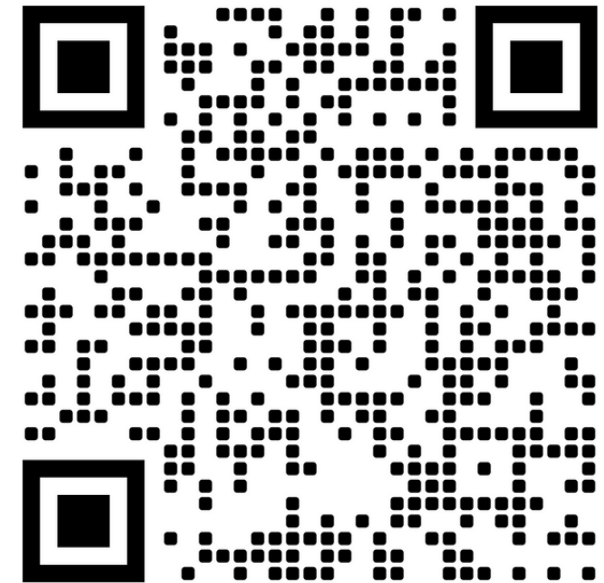
# Sign up today!



- Emails sent out to 1,215 Faculty, 1,309 Students, & 420 Volunteers
- Newsletter reaches an audience of 2,554
- Social Media posts on LinkedIn, Instagram, Facebook, & X

[carl.steffensen@switchon.org](mailto:carl.steffensen@switchon.org)

[www.switchcompetition.org](http://www.switchcompetition.org)



# Geothermal Collegiate Competition (GCC)

- **What is the GCC?**
- **Why should students participate?**
- **Benefits for students**
- **Description of current competition**



# Geothermal Collegiate Competition

Diana Acero-Allard  
Geothermal Researcher  
NREL

September 17, 2024



Stakeholder Engagement Event

2023 GCC Champion

May 02, 2024



Geothermal  
Collegiate Competition  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

# WHAT IS THE GEOTHERMAL COLLEGIATE COMPETITION?

Funded by the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Geothermal Technologies Office (GTO) for more than 10 years, the GCC **supports workforce development** and gives students a chance to gain **resume experience** in the **geothermal industry** while still in school.

The competition invites teams from collegiate institutions to **develop real-world geothermal solutions** while competing for **cash prizes** and gaining **valuable experience** in the renewable energy industry.

- Students of all majors, minors, and career paths are encouraged to participate.
- Teams can have students from multiple collegiate institutions.
- "Collegiate institution" = any post-secondary institution (tribal colleges, community colleges, 2-year colleges, 4-year colleges/universities, etc.)

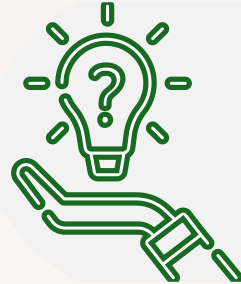
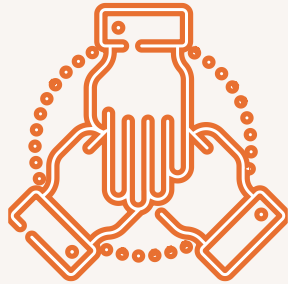


# Why should students participate in the GCC?

- **Gain hands-on experience in the renewable energy industry**—great resume item that includes the DOE
- Engage with industry mentors and community
- Collaborate with students from other disciplines—students of any major, minor, emphasis, undergraduate/graduate level, etc. can participate
- No previous geothermal experience needed
- **Total prize pot of \$38,000!**



# Geothermal Collegiate Competition By The Numbers



**300+**

**Students**

**101**

**Teams**

**56**

**Colleges**

**30**

**States**

**126K**

**Cash**



# Mentors and Faculty

## Mentors

- Connect teams with resources
- Give feedback on deliverable drafts
- Share experience in the renewable energy industry.

## Faculty

- Not required but recommended
- Incorporate the GCC as part of fall courses for a hands-on learning experience.

# Geothermal Collegiate Competition 2024

## Technical Track

Teams present a qualitative justification for deploying a **geothermal district heating and cooling (GDHC) system** in a district of their choice (community or campus), a conceptual design of a geothermal system based upon community needs, available resources, and prospective benefits to that community.

Deliverables include:

- A geothermal resource assessment
- An engineering and system design assessment.

## Policy Track

Teams present a qualitative justification for deploying a **GDHC system** in a district of their choice, an analysis of the regulatory environment, a workforce analysis, financial incentives, and an economic assessment.

Deliverables include:

- A permitting assessment
- An economic and financial incentives assessment.



Photo by NREL

- **1st place** (for each track): **\$10,000**
- **2nd place** (for each track): **\$6,000**
- **3rd place** (for each track): **\$2,000**
- **Bonus:** outstanding submission from a team of all Tribal and/or community college students: **\$2,000**
- **Honorable mentions**

# Stakeholder Engagement Event

- First-place teams will hold an in-person stakeholder engagement event.
- This event will take place prior to July 2025 and should be held at or near the selected site.
- Teams receive a \$9,000 University Support Cash Prize to assist with planning and holding this event.



**Follow the competition on HeroX for updates!**  
[www.herox.com/geothermalcollegiatecompetition2024](http://www.herox.com/geothermalcollegiatecompetition2024)



## Recruit

Team members/  
faculty advisors



## Read

The rules to plan  
your  
participation



## Register

Your team on  
HeroX by Oct. 7



## Learn

Using the  
resources  
provided in the  
rules



## Design

Your solutions!  
First optional  
deadline is Oct.  
28

AMERICAN  
**MADE**  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

**Geothermal**  
Collegiate Competition

# Thank You

Questions

[Geo.Competition@NREL.gov](mailto:Geo.Competition@NREL.gov)

Learn More

[energy.gov/eere/geothermal/geothermal-collegiate-competition](https://energy.gov/eere/geothermal/geothermal-collegiate-competition)





*Guest speakers:*



**Carl Steffensen**  
Switch Competition  
Program Manager



**Diana Acero Allard**  
Geothermal Researcher  
NREL



**Switch Competition**  
COLLABORATE. COMPETE. INSPIRE.



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Geothermal Champion Members

**THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING**

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## **Full Steam Ahead**

  
**GEOHERMAL  
RISING NEXT  
GEN GEO**

Recording and resources will be sent out this week and posted  
on our website

