



CHANGE THE WORLD

The Systems Thinking Challenge



APPLY
HERE



Change The World: The Systems Thinking Challenge is a student innovation program that empowers students to apply systems thinking tools to design impactful solutions for complex, real-world challenges. Through cross-disciplinary teamwork, milestone stipends, faculty mentorship, and structured training, students will progress from preliminary proposals to final presentations, culminating in a public showcase in May 2026.



CONTACT JILL SPEECE WITH ANY QUESTIONS:
jespeece@calpoly.edu

DEADLINE:

October 31, 2025

This campuswide cross-collaboration opportunity will bring

5

FACULTY
MEMBERS

10

TEAMS

4

STUDENTS
EACH

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:

1. Mandatory Kick-off Meeting

All participants must attend the in-person kickoff on **November 15, 2025**, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM – pizza lunch at 11 AM included

2. Weekly Mentor Office Hour:

One member from each team must attend the **Thursday mentor office hour**, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Attendance will be recorded

3. Special Systems Thinking Training Sessions:

All participants must attend faculty-led workshops covering:

- Iceberg Diagram
- Context Diagrams
- Causal Loop Diagrams
- Stakeholder Analysis
- Risk Assessment Tools

MILESTONES & STUDENT STIPENDS:

Each student participant will receive a stipend for successfully completing each milestone:

\$250

Preliminary Proposal
Presentation

January 2026

\$350

Conceptual Proposal
Presentation

March 2026

\$400

Final Proposal
Presentation

April 2026

FINALS:

4 teams selected to present at the Finals:

\$5000

1st Place

\$3000

2nd Place

\$1500

3rd Place

RECOGNITION

HONORABLE
MENTION



From left, Grace Kathryn Hurley (manufacturing engineering), Lea Joan Graham (natural resources management and environmental sciences) and Zoila Anuri Kanu (computer science and software engineering) won first place in the 2025 Change the World Challenge for their product, Buzz Off.

