



CAL POLY

CHANGE THE WORLD: THE SYSTEMS THINKING CHALLENGE

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.

PRIZES:

\$5000

1st Place

\$3000

2nd Place

\$1500

3rd Place

RECOGNITION

Honorable
Mention

HAPPENING:

MAY 8, 2026

FRIDAY • STARTS AT 1 PM

📍 Advanced Technology Laboratory (building 7)

TEAM FINALISTS

ThermaFlow

- **ISAIAH TOTH**, Philosophy
- **KAYLA PEREZ**, Environmental Management and Protection
- **KEZIAH GOPALLA**, Industrial Engineering
- **LEONARDO MAYA RAMOS**, Electrical Engineering

VisiTox Sensors

- **BRIANNE BLUM**, Interdisciplinary Studies
- **ELLI WOOTEN**, Environmental Management And Protection
- **ROWAN IMLAY-MORRIS**, Industrial Engineering
- **TYLER PAGE**, Computer Science

VitaLines

- **ASHLEY ARING**, Software Engineering
- **GABRIEL RIBEIRO**, Chemistry
- **HANNAH BENSON**, Kinesiology
- **MONISH SHANMUGHAM SURESH**, Computer Science

SENZ

- **ELEANOR OLSEN**, Business
- **KYLE HIRTH**, Mechanical Engineering
- **OLIVIA SHORT**, Environmental Management And Protection
- **SAIYEN WELLS**, Agricultural And Environmental Plant

FACULTY MENTORS

Priya Verma

Erik Sapper

Christina Firpo

Miranda Yin

Lanny Griffin

JUDGES

Lee Ann Pearce

David Pelling

Sara Ford

Roger Benham

Bo Lycke



CHALLENGE DIRECTOR

Jill Speece is an assistant professor of industrial and manufacturing engineering at Cal Poly. Prior to her academic career, Speece worked in the manufacturing industry as an industrial engineer at Raytheon (2004–09), Abound Solar (2009–12) and Terumo BCT (2013–14). She received her Lean Six Sigma Expert certification through Raytheon in 2008. She then transitioned to working in the health-care industry and served as both a process improvement consultant and the director of business optimization at Radiology Associates from 2015–21. Speece has her bachelor's degree in industrial engineering from Cal Poly, a master's in engineering management from USC and a doctorate in systems engineering from Colorado State.