Shaping leaders and ventures for global impact

ACARA CHALLENGE 2016

INFO SESSION - Nov 17th
What’s Acara?

Acara Challenge

• Awards
• Eligibility
• Ideas
• D Prize

Applying
• Timeline
• Judging Criteria
• Past Winners

Opportunities: Social Venture Launchpad, Discovery India, Acara Fellowships, Global Venture Design
Acara’s Mission

To help students develop venture solutions to global grand challenges

Education + Impact
Shaping Leaders

- Local Operator Income: $20/month
- Stimulight Revenue: $80/month
- Cost of System: $1,400
- Time to Breakeven: 18 months
Malnutrition, climate change, solid waste, food deserts, water quality, energy access, poverty, inequality, immigration, food security, refugees, water supply, drinking water, sanitation, infant mortality, diarrhea, livelihoods, abuse, pollution, hazardous waste, unproductive agriculture, lack of distribution, gaps in supply chains, cash flow challenges, disease, food access, obesity, inefficient use of resources, contamination, depression, lack of health insurance, unaffordable housing, low quality of life, homelessness, violence, open defecation, maternal mortality
Acara Program

Courses:
- GCC 5005: Global Venture Design: What Impact Will You Make?
- CEGE 5572: Social Venture Launchpad
- CEGE 4011/5570: Discovery, India

Competitions:
- Acara Challenge - March 2016

Fellowships:
- 3-6 month internship placements internationally
Do you have an idea to change the world? Win $6000!

The Acara Challenge is an annual impact venture competition to reward UMN students creating solutions to social and environmental challenges.
AWARDS

- More than $35,000 available
- Acara Challenge Awards up to $1,000 per team
- International and Domestic Divisions
- Fellowship Awards up to $5,000 per team
- D Prize matching awards up to $5,000 per team
ELIGIBILITY

• At least one team member must be degree seeking UMN student Fall ’15 or Spring ’16.
• May apply as individual or with team.
• No restrictions on number of team members.
FUND A BIG IDEA

IDEAS

• Applicants must have a venture idea or operational early venture that addresses a grand challenge.
• Financially viable solution: business, non-profit, policy, app, etc.
• Domestic or International
**FUND A BIG IDEA**

**D Prize**

- Partnering with Acara to match international teams.
- 12 D Prize Challenge areas in 6 themes.

- **Girl’s Education**
- **Education**
- **Governance and Infrastructure**

- **Global Health**
- **Energy**
- **Custom**
FUND A BIG IDEA

APPLYING

• See acara.umn.edu.
• 8 question application. 1000 characters per response including spaces.
• Initial application due 1/22/16, 5pm CST.
FUND A BIG IDEA

TIMELINE

• Jan 22. 5pm CST. - Initial application due.
• Jan 29. - Finalists announced.
• Feb 2. 6-8pm CST. - Finalist information session.
• Feb 12. 5pm CST. - Final plans due.
• Feb 22-26. - One on one coaching session.
• Mar 3. - Acara Challenge Finals and Reception.
JUDGING CRITERIA

• What is the problem?
• How do you make money?
• What is the social impact?
• How does it scale?
• Who is the team?
Ova Woman
Acara Challenge 2015
E Grove
Acara Challenge 2015

Creating opportunities to responsibly recycle e-waste

Continue the conversation on Twitter @EGroveTC #JoinTheGrove
Mighty Axe Hops
Acara Challenge 2014
MyRain
Acara Challenge 2010
In **Social Venture Launchpad**, students design venture solutions to address challenges they're passionate about. Many students then pursue the Acara Challenge to get funding to pilot their plan.

**What**: 2-credit impact venture course *Jan 11-15, 2016.*

**Who**: Any UMN student with an idea of a potential solution for a social or environmental problem. Teams can take the course.

**Apply**: See [acara.umn.edu](http://acara.umn.edu). Email 1-pg CV and 1-pg motivation essay describing your venture idea. Priority application due 12/20/15
In the Acara May-term global seminar, *Discovery India*, we explore India’s fast-growing entrepreneurship hub, Bangalore, where rural meets urban, poverty meets wealth, and environmental and quality of life issues are distinctly intertwined.

- **What**: 3-credit, 3-week Bangalore global development and challenges course from 5/17/16-6/7/16.
- **Who**: Students of all majors seeking global immersive experiences loaded with adventures and delicious Indian food.
- **Apply**: [z.umn.edu/india](http://z.umn.edu/india). Priority application due 12/1/15
Post Acara Challenge, students may pursue an **Acara Fellowship** to gain field experience, pilot a venture idea or intern with a social enterprise.

- **What**: 3-9 month fellowship experience.
- **Who**: All Acara Challenge participants.
- **Apply**: Acara Challenge participants will be invited to apply.
In *Global Venture Design – What Impact Will You Make?*, upper level undergrads and grad students work on multidisciplinary teams of 4-5 students to develop scalable venture solutions to address a global environmental or social challenge.

- **What**: 3-credit Fall semester impact project course (GCC 5005).
- **Who**: Students of all majors seeking impact venture project experiences and global experience.
- **Register**: [my.umn.edu](http://my.umn.edu). Register in April during course registration.
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Acara Opportunities

**Social Venture Launchpad** - Jan 2016  
**Acara Challenge** - March 3, 2016 (apply - 1/22/16)  
**Discovery, India** - May 2016 (apply - 12/1/15)  
**Acara Fellowship** - Summer 2016 (apply Mar 2016)  
**Global Venture Design** - Fall 2016 (apply Apr 2016)
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PLAN SCOPE

• One Plan; Two goals.

• **Plan Small:** Develop a plan for a viable pilot (minimum viable product)

• **Plan Big:** Develop a plan to reach 100,000 people in 5 years.
Acara Challenge Entry Application

• What is the problem you are addressing (be as specific as possible)?
• What is your solution?
• How do you make money to sustain the idea?
• How are you making an impact on a social or environmental problem?
• What is your plan to test out your idea (describe your pilot plan)?
• Describe your team and its commitment to the idea?
• How much money do you need now and how will it be used?