



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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(Blacksburg, VA) – VT KnowledgeWorks is pleased to announce the winner of the Global Challenge Virtual Preliminary, Team Visionear, who will advance to this year's Global Student Entrepreneurship Challenge on Thursday, August 20, 2015, at 8:00 a.m. at The Inn at Virginia Tech and Skelton Conference Center, Blacksburg, Virginia.

Team Visionear desires to help those who are visually impaired to better navigate their surroundings through a wearable device, which includes functionality such as a bank note detector, barcode reader, object recognition, color segmentation, light detector, and crowd-sourced information reader. Team members Nuntipat Narkthong, Natthaphat Laoharawee, Budsapanee Pongsiriyaporn, and Gaywalee Liamloha represent King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi (KMUTT), in Bangkok, Thailand.

As part of their prize, Team Visionear will receive up to \$5,000 in travel expenses to Blacksburg and Roanoke, Virginia, to participate in the Global Partnership Week, August 16-22, 2015. During this week-long celebration of entrepreneurship, student teams will be housed by local families, receive coaching from successful technology companies, and enjoy fellowship and celebratory meals with Virginia Tech students and other regional attendees.

There will be 14 student teams competing in the Sixth Annual Global Student Entrepreneurship Challenge for the \$25,000 grand prize and VT KnowledgeWorks Global Challenge trophy from Australia, Austria, Belgium, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Egypt, England, France, Italy, Mexico, Switzerland, Thailand, and the USA (Virginia Tech).

This year's prizes include:

- \$15,000 – [Plastics One](#) Advanced Manufacturing Award for the outstanding tangible product

- \$15,000 – VT KnowledgeWorks Information Technology Award for the outstanding intangible product or service
- \$10,000 – An additional grand prize for one of the two teams that receive the Advanced Manufacturing Award or the Information Technology Award
- \$5,000 – People’s Choice Award sponsored by [Virginia Tech's Outreach and International Affairs](#)

VT KnowledgeWorks Global Partnership Week offers university students and faculty from all over the world a chance to collaborate, form partnerships, build their global networks, and congregate in Blacksburg and Roanoke, Virginia, USA. The Global Partnership is an ongoing, cooperative association of regions building permanent social and academic relationships with each other, for mutual long-term advantage. Members of the partnership gather annually during a weeklong Global Partnership event hosted by [VT KnowledgeWorks](#), [Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center](#), [Virginia Tech](#), and citizens and businesses of the Roanoke-Blacksburg region.

For more details about this event, visit our website at www.vtkwglobal.com or contact Lindsey Eversole at 540-443-9100 ext. 2 or via email at lindsey.eversole@vtknowledgeworks.com.

VT KnowledgeWorks wants to thank our generous sponsors including [Automation Creations, Inc.](#), [BAE Systems](#), [BB&T](#), [The Branch Group, Inc.](#), [Brown, Edwards & Company, LLP](#), [CIT GAP Funds](#), [City of Roanoke](#), [Fox 21/27](#), [G.J. Hopkins, Inc.](#), [Interactive Achievement, Inc.](#), [Meridium](#), [Montgomery County](#), [Virginia Economic Development Department](#), [National Bank](#), [New River Valley Intellectual Property Law](#), [Plastics One Inc.](#), [Rackspace](#), [Shentel](#), [SimulTV](#), [SunTrust Bank](#), [TechLab](#), [Third Security](#), [Town of Blacksburg](#), [Town of Christiansburg](#), [Union First Market Bank](#), [UXB International, Inc.](#), [Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center](#), [Virginia Tech's Outreach and International Affairs](#), [VPT, Inc.](#), and [Wordsprint](#).

VT KnowledgeWorks encourages and enables creative entrepreneurship world-wide, through innovative curriculum, local business resource centers, and a global network of cooperating regions, all focused on three essential contributors to success: clear understanding of fundamental business principles; access to timely, relevant information; and meaningful personal and corporate relationships. It is a subsidiary of the Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center, supported by the continuing confidence and enthusiasm of its clients, sponsors and friends, both corporate and individual. Its world headquarters is in Blacksburg, Virginia, USA.