



COLLEGE OF
ENGINEERING, ARCHITECTURE
AND TECHNOLOGY

ZINK CENTER FOR
COMPETITIVE INNOVATION

2025-2029
STRATEGIC PLAN

ZINK CENTER
FOR COMPETITIVE INNOVATION

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INTRODUCTION

The Zink Center for Competitive Innovation was founded in 2022 with a gift from The Zink Family Foundation. The Center perpetuates the spirit of John “Jack” Zink, whose legendary ingenuity, grit, and competitive drive carried his team to the Indianapolis 500 Victory Circle and beyond.

VISION

The Zink Center will transform Oklahoma State University engineering students into ethical and professional next generation leaders, whose grit, innovation, and competitive spirit will make the world a better place for all.



We envision graduates of Zink Center programs prepared to lead intellectually, technically, and ethically. We envision graduates who are ready and willing to tackle the "impossible," who have the technical, interpersonal and leadership skills necessary to propose innovative solutions to challenging problems and the grit, perseverance and creativity to get the job done!



MISSION

The mission of the Zink Center is to create, promote and develop interdisciplinary innovation teams for the benefit of current and future generations of OSU students.

We will engage with a broad spectrum of current and future OSU students to create, promote and develop state, regional and national collegiate and STEM competition teams in areas of interest to CEAT students.

COLLEGIATE COMPETITION GOAL

Achieve national recognition for our highly professional, student-led, interdisciplinary competition teams.

Many engineering societies sponsor international competitions to foster engineering excellence and a competitive mindset. The Zink Center will leverage the recent successes of our teams to develop and maintain vibrant, nationally-recognized, student-run competition teams. We will provide design and build spaces for our teams and mentor team leaders in communication, project management and teamwork skills.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR COMPETITION TEAMS GOAL

1. Incubate and develop new CEAT competition teams within the existing Interdisciplinary Senior Design framework
2. Develop student leaders by:
 - Sponsoring leadership seminars
 - Providing hands-on training in manufacturing, design, planning, and problem-solving skills
 - Mentor team leaders in one-on-one and group settings
 - Develop and maintain well-equipped, well-organized, safe, and collaborative, student-run makerspaces and design environments
3. Sponsor team travel to national competitions
4. Create "Excellence in Leadership" fellowships

METRICS FOR COMPETITION TEAMS GOAL

1. Four keynote lectures from industry leaders each semester
2. Ten online training modules in critical leadership and management topics
3. Six 'hands-on' training modules in industry-critical fabrication and manufacturing processes offered once each semester
4. Ten competition teams attending national competition each year
5. State-of-the art, student-run makerspaces supporting ten Zink Center competition teams
6. \$250,000 in annual team sponsorship and support





INNOVATION GOAL

Create a culture of innovation within CEAT programs.

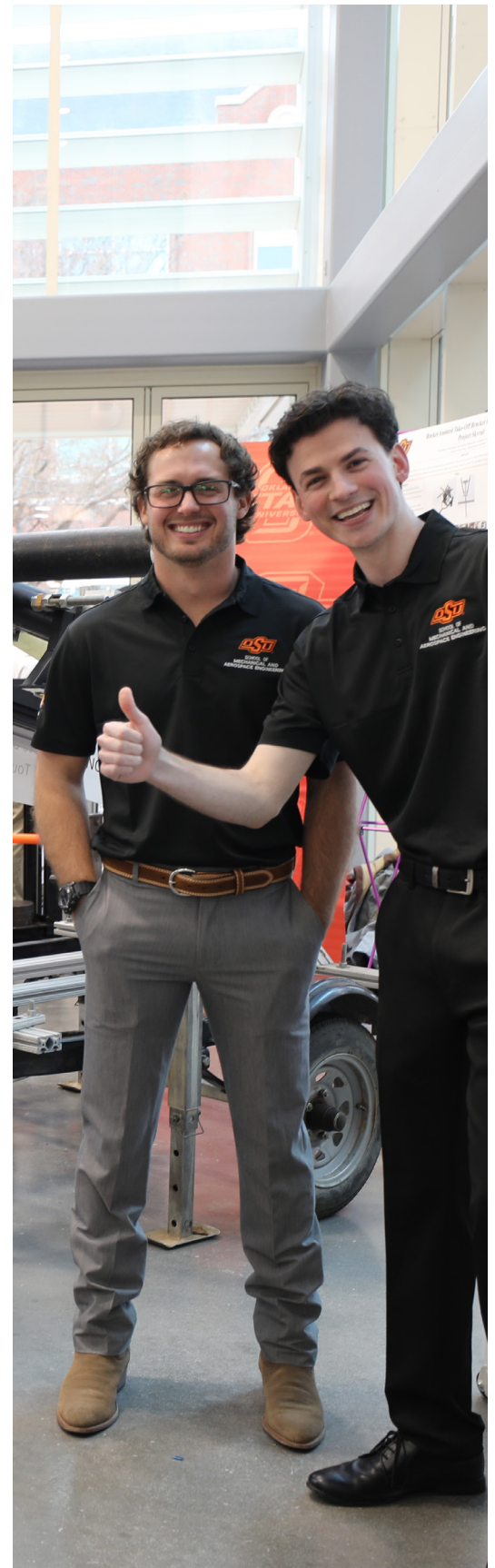
The Zink Center will create and leverage the exceptional makerspaces, teaching laboratories and shop facilities available to CEAT students to create a culture of innovation across CEAT academic programs. The Zink Center will partner with CEAT academic units, the Riata Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship and the School of Entrepreneurship to create opportunities for interdisciplinary student teams to develop and nurture a spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR INNOVATION GOAL

1. In collaboration with the Riata Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, support prototype development for business startup teams of CEAT and Spears students.
2. Create an 'Innovation Hub' in ENDEAVOR where business startup teams can meet with technical and business leaders.
3. Collaborate with the School of Entrepreneurship to design an 'Innovation Trail' suitable for deployment in OSU Cowboy Compass Trails Program.
4. Create a freshman/sophomore design-build competition to anchor the CEAT freshman innovation trail experience and provide opportunities for CEAT students to develop teamwork, innovation and rapid prototyping skills.

METRICS FOR INNOVATION GOAL

1. Ten innovation teams prototyping new products for their business startups in the Zink Center Innovation Hub each semester
2. 100 students each year participating in the Zink Center innovation trail and competition
3. \$100,000 in annual innovation awards, scholarships and other programs



STEM OUTREACH COMPETITION GOAL

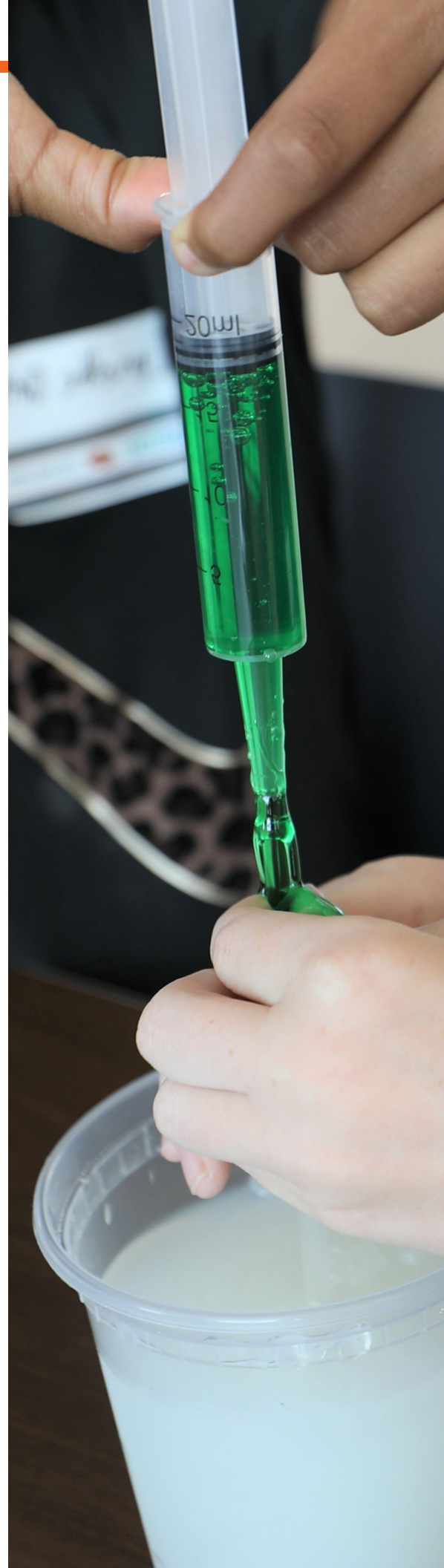
Support existing STEM competition initiatives with mentors, instructors, and facilities.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR STEM OUTREACH COMPETITION GOAL

1. Support established state, regional and national STEM competitions by providing participating student teams access to Zink Center makerspaces
2. Participate in planning and promoting STEM competition events on the OSU campus
3. Encourage, train, and incentivize CEAT student leaders to participate in CEAT STEM outreach activities
4. Increase the use of social media platforms to broadly communicate Zink Center success stories and activities at the student and organization levels

METRICS FOR STEM OUTREACH COMPETITION GOAL

1. Support five STEM outreach competition team activities each year
2. Annually support two regional and national STEM programs in our makerspaces
3. Five student leaders actively collaborating with CEAT outreach programs and activities





The Zink Center is uniquely positioned to support CEAT, state and national competitions designed to inspire Oklahoma middle and high school students to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Zink Center technical staff will collaboratively support hands-on STEM competitions in our makerspaces by providing instruction in the manufacturing process, design, teamwork and leadership, and project management.



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