

SHARK TANK

OPEN

April 8, 2021

3:00 - 5:00 p.m.



MINNESOTA STATE

Educational Innovations

Greetings

On behalf of Minnesota State, Educational Innovations is thrilled to welcome you to the 2021 Shark Tank Open! After a year of unexpected challenges and great resilience, we come together to celebrate accomplishments and launch promising ideas.

This afternoon's celebration begins by sharing innovation updates. In alignment with core principles of Equity 2030, future plans for innovation and collaboration funding programs involve an explicit commitment to equitable outcomes. We began taking steps by infusing Equity 2030 components into grant activities. In addition, we will be recalibrating Shark Tank Open and Multi-Campus Collaboration funding opportunities to be on the same funding cycle beginning fall 2021.

Next we will recognize innovators across the system who have new seed and sustaining projects moving ahead this year. We can't wait to see what they accomplish and hope you are equally inspired by their plans. We will then transition to the main event, our very own version of Shark Tank, a lively competition to fund the very best ideas from across the state.

We hope you have found time over the last month to attend the Innovation Expo, a series of 22 presentations to see how previously funded innovations are progressing and apply for Pay It Forward Funding to launch one of these innovations at your own campus. See the complete list of Innovation Expo recordings at MinnState.edu/Shark and look for the Pay It Forward announcement tomorrow!

Lastly, join colleagues April 9 for one of four workshops, diving into innovations that have a record of success.



Robbie Burnett, Ed.D.

Director of Innovation and Collaboration
Minnesota State
robbie.burnett@minnstate.edu



MINNESOTA STATE
Educational Innovations

If you are at all interested in educational innovation, you will find something worthwhile in our 2021 Shark Tank Open experience.



Kim Lynch, Ph.D.

Senior System Director for Educational Innovations
Minnesota State
kim.lynch@minnstate.edu

YOUR PARTICIPATION REQUESTED

Share your experiences by tweeting with the hashtag [#MinStateShark](https://twitter.com/MinStateShark). For comments on individual presentations, please include the college or university Twitter handle found in this program.

[#MinStateShark](https://twitter.com/MinStateShark)

[@MinStateEdu](https://twitter.com/MinStateEdu) | [@MinStateASA](https://twitter.com/MinStateASA) | [@MinStateEI](https://twitter.com/MinStateEI)

SHARK TANK OPEN

April 8, 2021 | 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Agenda

- 3:00 - 3:10 p.m. Welcome and Innovation Updates
Robbie Burnett
- 3:10 - 3:20 p.m. Recognition of Small Seed and Sustaining Innovation Funding Recipients | **Pg. 6**
Kim Lynch
- 3:20 - 3:25 p.m. Break/Transition to pitch presentations | **Pg. 4-5**
- 3:25 - 3:45 p.m. Pitch Presentations Round One
- 3:50 - 4:10 p.m. Pitch Presentations Round Two
- 4:15 - 4:35 p.m. Pitch Presentations Round Three
- 4:40 - 5:00 p.m. Pitch Presentations Round Four

How to Join: Visit asanewsletter.org/shark-tank-open-2021/

Those who have registered will receive the password via email on April 7, 2021.

Innovation Workshops

April 9, 2021

9:00 - 11:00 a.m.



Register for an Innovation Workshop to get an in-depth overview of a selection of previously funded innovations:

Culturally Responsive Pedagogy

Digital Badging

Virtual Reality

The Power of an Innovative Mindset

Pitch Presentations

How to Join: Visit asanewsletter.org/shark-tank-open-2021/

Those who have registered will receive the password via email on April 7, 2021.

Track	Round 1 3:25 - 3:45 p.m.	Round 2 3:50 - 4:10 p.m.
Student Success	Supporting Autistic Student Success Initiative (SASSI) St. Cloud State University @stcloudstate	Underrepresented Student Mentors St. Cloud Technical and Community College @SCTCC
Student Resilience & Technical Programs	Creating Equitable Outcomes through Trauma Responsiveness Minneapolis College @MplsCollege	Finding Your Place OER Text: Stories of Cultural Wealth and Resilience Minnesota State University, Mankato @MNSUMankato
OER & Equity	Teaching Agile through an OER Textbook Metropolitan State University @MetroStateU	Center for International Disability Advocacy and Diplomacy St. Cloud State University @stcloudstate
Online Learning & Ed Tech	An intelligent feedback generation and content recommendation system for students to improve their learning experience St. Cloud State University @stcloudstate	Innovating the Science Classroom for Widespread Engagement St. Cloud State University @stcloudstate

Pitch Presentations

How to Join: Visit asanewsletter.org/shark-tank-open-2021/

Those who have registered will receive the password via email on April 7, 2021.

Round 3

4:15 - 4:35 p.m.

Set Discrete Math Free!

Bemidji State University
@BemidjiState

Thrive in Five: It's Good
for Business

Saint Paul College
@StPaulCollege

A Concise Four Field
Anthropology OER
Textbook: A Decolonizing
Approach

Inver Hills Community College
@InverHillsCC

Online Student
Strong Start

South Central College
@SCCollege

Round 4

4:40- 5:00 p.m.

Career Readiness Digital
Badging Program
Demonstrates Skill &
Competency

Minneapolis College
@MplsCollege

Mobile Make It Lab

St. Cloud State University
@stcloudstate

Student Voices:
Humanizing Students
Through Their Stories

Minneapolis College
@MplsCollege

Interdisciplinary
Applications of Artificial
Intelligence Emphasizing
Public Safety

St. Cloud State University
@stcloudstate

**Shark Tank Open
Adjourns**
Thank you for attending!

Small Seed and Sustaining Innovation Funding Recipients

Congratulations to the 2021 Small Seed and Sustaining Innovation Funding recipients, which include new projects up to \$10,000 and previous projects receiving sustaining funding.

Expanding Research Opportunities with Wildlife Tracking Tower

Small Seed Innovation Funding

Anoka-Ramsey Community College

@AnokaRamseyCC

Connecting Bemidji State University's Students, and Their Students, With Diverse Texts

Small Seed Innovation Funding

Bemidji State University

@BemidjiState

Northwoods Queer Outreach

Sustaining Innovation Funding

Bemidji State University

@BemidjiState

Indigenous Students in Psychology Training

Small Seed Innovation Funding

Bemidji State University

@BemidjiState

Evaluate the question "What Does Racial Equity Mean to Us?"

Small Seed Innovation Funding

Lake Superior College

@LSC_Duluth

Engaging Faculty in FYE Learning Communities

Small Seed Innovation Funding

Metropolitan State University

@MetroStateU

Metro State Queer Peer Education Program (QPEP)

Small Seed Innovation Funding

Metropolitan State University

@MetroStateU

First Generation College Students Anthology

Small Seed Innovation Funding

Metropolitan State University

@MetroStateU

Building a Culturally Responsive Student-to-Student Mentorship Training Program

Small Seed Innovation Funding

Minneapolis College

@MplsCollege

GRIT Program

Sustaining Innovation Funding

Minnesota State University Moorhead

@MSUMoorhead

A Peer-Team Mentoring Approach for American Indian Students: Enhancing Academic and Personal Skills to Promote High School Graduation and College Credentialing

Small Seed Innovation Funding

South Central College

@SCCollege

Early Childhood Education AI Lab Simulation

Small Seed Innovation Funding

South Central College

@SCCollege

Expanding Access for a Social Virtual Reality Learning Platform

Sustaining Innovation Funding

St. Cloud Technical and Community College

@SCTCC

Bridges Health: Sustaining the Mission through Ongoing Innovation

Sustaining Innovation Funding

Winona State University

@winonastateu

Frequently Asked Questions



When is Pay It Forward Funding available?

Pay It Forward Funding applications will be available April 9, 2021 via the [ASA Newsletter](#). Applications are due May 7, 2021.

Pay It Forward Funding is available to Minnesota State faculty and staff who wish to replicate a previously funded innovation and bring it to their campus.



How many innovation projects will be awarded?

Educational Innovations hopes to fund 4 - 6 of the proposals being pitched.



Who decides the proposals that are funded?

Funding will be determined by the panelists in association with the Minnesota State system office.



When will the funding decisions be made?

The decisions will be announced no later than April 23, 2021 via the [ASA Newsletter](#).



How can I learn more about previously funded innovation projects?

The 2021 Innovation Expo featured 22 presentations of previously funded projects from March 2 - April 7, 2021. Find recordings at [MinnState.edu/Shark](#).

You can also view previously funded innovations in the [Innovation Gallery](#).



Will the Shark Tank Open pitch presentations be recorded?

The 2021 pitch presentations will be recorded and be made available at [MinnState.edu/Shark](#) following the event.

Meet the Sharks

Student Success

Room Host: Yingfah Thao

Room Organizer: Tim Anderson



DR. LISA KARCH is serving in the role as Interim Dean of Graduate & Extended Learning at Minnesota State University Moorhead. She currently oversees Graduate Studies, Online Learning, and Youth Outreach. Lisa has a passion for supporting innovative ideas and working with teams to discover new opportunities in higher education to serve our campus communities as well as our community, region, and state partners.



BEN NWACHUKWU is the IT Helpdesk Manager at Southwest Minnesota State University. Having been in this role for 9 years, Ben oversees the day-to-day operation of the SMSU IT Helpdesk and conducts different technology workshops on how to utilize software and tools like Office 365, D2L Brightspace, and many more. He is a graduate of SMSU with a bachelor's degree in accounting, finance, and management, a minor in agribusiness, and a master's in business administration.



TISIDRA JONES, J.D., is passionate about creating systems that allow more people to thrive. As an artist, lawyer and entrepreneur she works at those intersections to connect with communities; create more holistic programs and policies; and try to expand access to equal economic opportunities for more people. Throughout her career, and her in current role as CEO of Strong & Starlike, Consulting, Inc., Tisdra has worked with government entities, nonprofits and businesses to design sustainable programs and policies related to economic development and business inclusion. Tisdra's work has resulted in multiple awards including the 2020 Minnesota Lawyer's Diversity and Inclusion Award.



DAVID METSA is from Faribault, MN and is a first-generation college student who currently attends South Central College. He graduated high school in 2018 and soon after began his college journey where he was elected Student Senate Treasurer and through senate, he became involved with LeadMN as a Platform Committee Member and Intern during the 2019-2020 year. He currently serves as LeadMN Treasurer representing all two-year college students in the state of Minnesota and is currently finishing up his AA degree in communications and is planning to transfer to a 4-year university to double major in political science and communications.

Meet the Sharks

Student Resilience and Technical Programs

Room Host: Kelly Hallsten-Erickson

Room Organizer: Michael Olesen



PETER ANGELOS has over 30 years of experience in the IT field in the educational, nonprofit, private, and government sectors. His professional experience ranges from application development, systems analysis and compliance, to leadership in operational, organizational, and change management. By combining his career in IT with a BA and MA in the field of history, he has been successful as a liaison between applied technology and a broad range of disciplines and endeavors. As CIO for Fond du Lac Tribal & Community College, he has contributed strategic leadership and professional IT management to the college so that it may continue to provide higher education opportunities for its communities in a welcoming, culturally diverse environment.



ANIKA STAFFORD is a veteran educator with over twenty years of experience working with students of all ages. Anika earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from Florida A & M University, and her master's of education in school counseling from the University of Wisconsin River Falls. She worked as a school counselor for 17 years, a college and career program coordinator at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Atlanta for two years, and has served as an Academic & Financial Aid and TRIO/SSS advisor at Dakota County Technical College for the past three years. She has a special interest in health and wellness education and brings this special skill set into the workplace and the community.



DR. LAKISHA WITTER earned a bachelor's degree in sociology from the University of Florida, Special Education (ME), and Educational Leadership (Ed.S) and (ED.D) from Minnesota State University, Mankato. She has used her background in special education and educational leadership to strategically plan, create, develop, rebuild and support current school infrastructure for special education programs and compliance in the United States and Africa. She has been a leader within the domain of education for over a decade serving in the capacity of special education educator, coordinator, director, and school board member.



JONATHAN MCNICHOLLES is a graduate student from Metropolitan State University pursuing a master's in advocacy and political leadership with a focus in the nonprofit sector. He received his BA and BS in philosophy, psychology, and political science from Bemidji State University. He also serves as the State Chair for Students United which represents all of the students of the universities of Minnesota State.

Meet the Sharks

Open Educational Resources and Equity

Room Host: Denise Felder
Room Organizer: Catherine Ford



DR. JOHN MADUKO is the Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs at Minnesota State Community and Technical College. He serves as the senior academic, enrollment management, student affairs, and marketing-public relations officer for the college that enrolls nearly 14,000 students annually. As a first-generation Nigerian-American, his career has been centered around the advocacy and equitable-outcomes for marginalized and underserved students, scholars, professionals, and communities. His leadership philosophy in higher education and formerly in medicine is applied through a servant leader's lens where inclusive practices, championing the advancement of those seeking to fulfill their success story and valuing the diversity of individuals who make up the organizational and local communities.



KLEBER ORTIZ has been an instructor in the School of Education at Minneapolis College since 2017. His background includes a BA in History from the U of M- Twin Cities, and a MA in education focusing on education and leadership from Augsburg University. He has been in the education field for over 10 years and his teaching experiences include middle school, high school, curriculum development, teacher professional development, and planning and implementation with Minneapolis Public Schools prior to coming to Minneapolis College. Passionate about developing a mindset for equity, with a focus on racial equity, he strives to model that in all his work. He also participates and leads workshops at various events that focus on ethnic studies, equity, culturally responsive pedagogy, critical literacy and closing the opportunity gap.



LA JUANA WHITMORE is a Business Strategist and Accredited Small Business Consultant® who, in addition to an almost 20 year career with Target Corporation in business architecture, IT and strategy consulting, has consulted hundreds of businesses. She specializes in designing and innovating business models for pre-revenue, startup, and early-growth small businesses and nonprofits. As an entrepreneur herself, she founded Black Twin Cities, a social venture that brought visibility to small, minority-owned businesses and events throughout Minnesota. She currently owns La Juana Whitmore Consulting and most recently designs and delivers the business planning curriculum for the 2020-2021 FINNnovation Lab Fellowship Program.



EMMA ZELMER is a junior at Minnesota State University, Mankato majoring in philosophy, politics, and economics with an emphasis on political science. This year she serves as the State Vice-Chair of Students United, the 501(c)3 non-profit that represents the 50,000+ Minnesota State university students at the local, system, state, and federal level. At Minnesota State University, Mankato she has worked as the speaker of the student government as well as a community advisor.

Meet the Sharks

Online Learning and Educational Technology

Room Host: Ken Graetz

Room Organizer: Scott Wojtanowski



WENDY ROBERSON is the Dean of Student Success and Senior Diversity Officer at Saint Paul College. Having over 25 years of professional experience in higher education through her work at public and private colleges and universities, she has worked in residence life, student life, leadership development, orientation and first-year experiences, academic advising, and multicultural affairs. She has also served as adjunct faculty providing courses on the topics of leadership, organizational development, student development and equity and inclusion. She is the chair of the Equity and Inclusion Committee and facilitated the development of the institution's Anti-Racist, Trauma-Informed Institution Plan. Throughout her career, creating and sustaining safe spaces for the development and success of college students, faculty and staff has been at the core of her work.



JEN OUELLETTE-SCHRAMM ED.D., is a faculty member, equity mentor, and online education coordinator at Riverland Community College, where she teaches English as a Second Language for academics and psychology. She serves on her campus Equity by Design Coalition and is Chair Elect of the Minnesota State Faculty Development Committee. She is a Qualified Administrator of the Intercultural Development Inventory, and an avid practitioner-researcher focused on the epistemological and intercultural growth of students and instructors in educational contexts. To stay updated on educational research and practice, she recently served as editor of MinneTESOL Journal, and also serves on Ed.D. dissertation committees. Her passion is supporting students' educational success and positive learning experiences so that they can learn, grow and pursue their dreams.



BUKATA HAYES is the son of Dia Damani and Karen Hayes, husband to Lisa and father to Damani, Jalen, Zavier, and Zuri. He recently became the first Vice President for Racial and Health Equity at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota. He served for 15 years as the Executive Director of the Greater Mankato Diversity Council, a non-profit, focused on diversity, inclusion, and equity in Southern Minnesota. In March 2020, he co-authored a book titled, *WRITE on RACE to be RIGHT on RACE Resource Journaling Guide* which is a self-study on race highlighting its many impacts on our communities. He also co-hosts a local radio show and podcast called DEI: Engaged Exchanges which discusses issues with diversity, equity, and inclusion with local and statewide leaders. He received his bachelor's degree in exercise physiology from the College of St. Scholastica in Duluth, Minnesota. He has membership and/or is on the board of numerous organizations such as the Mankato Chapter of the NAACP (Executive Committee), Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Board (President), Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation Board (Vice President) and the Blandin Foundation Board.



CHERYL SPADE is a marketing student at Century College and has an extensive background in customer service. She is a creative person who has a passion for wood refinishing.

Thank You

Thank you to the inspirational innovators who pitched their project ideas, Innovation Expo presenters, and Innovation Workshop facilitators. Your innovative mindset reflects your dedication to your students, campus, and community.

Thanks also goes out to all who made the 2021 Shark Tank Open possible:

Planning Committee:

Megan Babel, Robbie Burnett, LaShawnda Ford, Stephen Kelly, and Kim Lynch.

Room Hosts:

Denise Felder, Ken Graetz, Kelly Hallsten-Erickson, and Yingfah Thao.

Room Organizers:

Tim Anderson, Brock Behling, Catherine Ford, Michael Olesen, and Scott Wojtanowski.

Sharks:

Peter Angelos, Bukata Hayes, Tisidra Jones, Lisa Karch, John Maduko, Jonathan McNicholes, David Metsa, Ben Nwachukwu, Kleber Ortiz, Jen Ouellette-Schramm, Wendy Roberson, Cheryl Spade, Anika Stafford, La Juana Whitmore, Lakisha Witter, and Emma Zelmer.

Videographer:

Gary Hatteberg

Feedback Survey

Let us know how your experiences were at the 2021 Shark Tank Open by taking the following survey. We appreciate your feedback and will use it to improve future events.

[Survey](#)