

Grad  **NEXT**

THINK DIFFERENT



April 9, 10 AM - 12 PM

1819 Innovation Hub, 3rd Floor Atrium

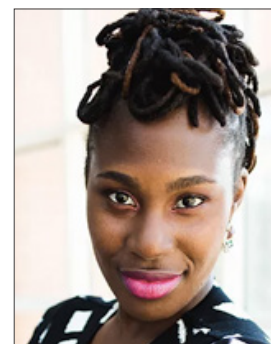
Welcome to the Graduate College's *GradNEXT* pitch competition! In the Graduate College, we champion a student-centered graduate education environment that integrates inclusion, belonging, and innovation as essential for creating the research, creative works, and scholarship necessary to develop unconventional graduate pathways and foster a sustainable global society.

We welcome innovative ideas that aim to improve graduate students' learning experience and prepare them to plot a path toward personal and career success. This event is about seeing the future of graduate education and getting ahead of the curve. This event is about listening to all the stakeholders involved in graduate education—from staff, students, and faculty—about their vision and their needs. This event is about developing partnerships with our university and local community to achieve whatever is next. We invite you to think differently and envision with us. We certainly cannot do it without you.

Graduate College Leadership



Rose Marie Ward, PhD
*Dean of the Graduate College
and Vice Provost of Graduate
Education*
The Graduate College
University of Cincinnati



Omotayo (Tayo) Banjo, PhD
Associate Dean
The Graduate College
University of Cincinnati



Tai Collins, PhD
Associate Dean
The Graduate College
University of Cincinnati

Meet the rest of our team at
grad.uc.edu



GradNEXT THINK DIFFERENT

What is GradNEXT?

GradNEXT is a pitch competition similar to Shark Tank where students, faculty, and staff pitch their ideas to the Dean of the Graduate College and alumni.

Students, faculty, and staff were invited to think different and propose a way to re-envision graduate education at UC—what might a dissertation, course work, degree programs, or overall student success look like in the next 5-10 years? Ten teams submitted intriguing pitches. The prelim judges faced a tough decision to select five for today's competition. Today's pitches seek to shake up the graduate program

structure, revolutionize curriculum, and meet student needs now to better prepare them for what's next.

The top-ranking idea will receive **\$1,000** in addition to funding support for their proposed idea. We hope today's pitches inspire you to look at graduate education through a questioning and innovative lens. Make your vote, and consider what idea you would like to bring to next year's competition!



EVENT PROGRAM

◆ Introduction

Omotayo Banjo, Associate Dean of the Graduate College

◆ TEAM 1, Graduate Level Competency Based Education

The College of Education, Criminal Justice, and Human Services, with the School of Information Technology (CECH)

◆ TEAM 2, UC Everywhere: Mobile University

The College of Design, Architecture, Art, and Planning (DAAP)

◆ TEAM 3, Global Voices, Local Impact

The College of Education, Criminal Justice, and Human Services, with the School of Information Technology (CECH); International Services; The Graduate College; and Graduate Student Government (GSG)

◆ TEAM 4, BME PhD Accelerator Program

The College of Engineering and Applied Science (CEAS)

◆ TEAM 5, CodeinCstructor.ai

The College of Engineering and Applied Science (CEAS)



Stephen Taylor, PhD is a 2011 Alumni from the College of Arts and Sciences where he obtained his PhD in Chemistry under the late Bill Connick. After a one-year post-doc at Purdue University, working characterizing underwater adhesives produced by marine bivalves, Stephen joined the Shepherd Chemical company where he served as Technical Manager for 7 years. For the past 5 years he has served as Chief Innovation and Finance Officer at Untold Content with a focus on helping scientific and technical organizations with Innovation Storytelling which ultimately resulted in the launch of Narratize: A Cincinnati-Based and SEED funded, Human-led Generative AI platform for Innovative Enterprises. Now, Stephen serves as the Executive Director of the Laboratory Safety Institute focused on Making Safer Science Accessible to Everyone.

Rose Marie Ward, PhD serves as the Dean of the Graduate College and Vice Provost of Graduate Education. She has extensive administrative experience in graduate education including financial and strategic planning, development of new degree and certificate programs, and cross-college and programmatic engagement. Throughout her career, Rose Marie has championed and established many diversity and graduate student support programs and services and earned notable awards for her teaching and research. She has authored numerous book chapters and journal articles in the areas of college student alcohol consumption and campus sexual assault. Rose Marie holds a BS in psychology and communication from Juniata College and both a master's and PhD in experimental psychology from the University of Rhode Island.

Tracie Williams is a seasoned professional with a passion for organizational leadership and innovation in healthcare and education. She kickstarted her academic journey at the University of Cincinnati, where she earned her undergraduate degree in Organizational Leadership, laying the foundation for her future endeavors. Driven by a thirst for knowledge and advancement, Tracie pursued her MBA through a full-time online program, branching out from UC due to logistical reasons. Tracie's affiliation with her alma mater didn't end with graduation; she continued to contribute actively as a board member of the College of Arts and Sciences Alumni Board. With over two decades of experience in the healthcare sector, Tracie has honed her skills and knowledge, culminating in her current role as a Business Administrator at the UC College of Medicine in Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine. In this capacity, she plays a pivotal role in ensuring the smooth operation of critical medical services. Outside of her professional endeavors, Tracie maintains a keen interest in entrepreneurship and innovation, particularly evident in her fascination with shows like Shark Tank. Tracie envisions a future where innovative solutions enhance the educational experience, paving the way for a new generation of achievers.

◆ TEAM 1

Graduate Level Competency Based Education – CECH

- Matt Huml (Associate Professor, Sport Administration, CECH)
- David Kelly (Educator Professor, Sport Administration, CECH)
- Beau Wyrick (Senior Online Marketing Manager, UC Online)

◆ TEAM 2

UC Everywhere: Mobile University – DAAP

- Claudia Rebola (Associate Dean, DAAP)
- Lora Alberto (Program Director for Graduate Studies and Research, DAAP)
- Henry Levesque (PhD Student, Planning, DAAP)
- Pam Rezai (Asst Dir Marketing & Publications, DAAP)
- Szymon Nogalski (PhD Student, Planning, DAAP)
- Nazanin Najdmofarrah (MFA Student, Fine Arts, DAAP)

◆ TEAM 3

Global Voices, Local Impact – CECH, International Office, Graduate College & Graduate Student Government

- Stacy Jenkins (Graduate Student Success Program Manager, CECH)
- Tiffany Berman (PhD Student, Educational Studies, CECH GSA President)
- Kelly Plazibat (Program Coordinator, UC International Services)
- Gibin Raju (PhD Student, Engineering Education, GSG President, and IGSA Communications Chair)
- Brandilyn Worrell Pham (Program Manager, Community and Belonging, Graduate College)

◆ TEAM 4

BME PhD Accelerator Program – CEAS

- Jason Heikenfeld (Faculty, Biomedical Engineering, CEAS)

◆ TEAM 5

CodeinCStructor.ai – CEAS

- Saumick Pradhan (MEng Student, Computer Science, CEAS)

THANK YOU!



Many thanks to our partners and supporters for GradNEXT.

Judges

Omotayo Banjo, *Graduate College Associate Dean and Preliminary Judge*

Megan Carroll, *Graduate College Program Director and Preliminary Judge*

Abby Ober, *Director of Engagement at Main Street Ventures and Preliminary Judge*

Stephen Taylor, *Executive Director of the Laboratory Safety Institute and Finalist Judge*

Tracie Williams, *UC College of Medicine Business Administrator and Finalist Judge*

Partners

Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation

Kate Harmon, *Assistant Vice President for the Office of Innovation*

Candace Wade, *Program Manager, Center for Entrepreneurship*

UC Graduate College Staff

Thank you for attending. The Graduate College wants to see you again!

The Graduate College offers professional development, mental health, and student celebration events throughout the year. Get skilled, healthy, and happy with your fellow grad students!

- **New Student Welcome & Orientation**, first Friday of each semester
- **Doctoral Hooding and Master's Recognition** graduation ceremony, final week of each semester
- **Three Minute Thesis Competition**, preliminary rounds and final competition, every January through February
- **Mental Health Summit**, every February
- **Graduate Student Appreciation week**, every April
- **World Kindness Week**, every November
- **Preparing Future Faculty opportunities** year-round
- **Professional development workshops** year-round
- **Mental health workshops** year-round
- **Post Doctoral Student Appreciation Week**, September
- **First Generation Student event**, November

Stay up-to-date about upcoming Graduate College events! Read the GradCurrents student newsletter on Wednesdays, join the Graduate College on [GetInvolvedUC](#) (a one-stop site for student events and programming), or follow [@gradcollegeuc](#) on social media.

The Graduate College
on GetInvolved UC



Meet the Graduate
College Staff



