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Application window opens for Michigan pitch contest and bootcamp to spur innovation in tech and education

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LANSING, Mich. — This summer, educators and innovators from across Michigan are invited to gather for the fourth annual Michigan EdTech Innovation Bootcamp and pitch contest (https://michiganvirtual.org/edtechcatalyst/? utm_campaign=EdTech+Pitch+Contest&utm_source=outreach&utm_medium=print) where participants will develop their skills, ideas, and classroom innovations.

Educators from across the state will come together between June 17-19 to discuss business ideas that will improve teaching or learning through the use of technology, culminating in a pitch contest on June 26th for five selected finalists. There is no cost to attend, and educators will earn up to 20 SCECH credits for their participation in the full bootcamp. Applications, open from April 14-May 26, serve as submissions for the pitch contest and EdTech Innovation Bootcamp.

The bootcamp will allow educators to explore and develop a business model for their idea or business while developing skills and identifying resources to grow their business and positively impact teaching and learning. The Bootcamp is organized by *Michigan Virtual* with support from Spartan Innovations (https://www.msufoundation.org/spartaninnovations) and the Michigan Small Business Development Center (https://michigansbdc.org/).

"As technology develops and innovation expands, so too must our educators. It is our responsibility to stay ahead of the curve so our students and our schools can prepare families for any future," said Jamey Fitzpatrick, President and CEO of *Michigan Virtual*. "Educators know their challenges first-hand and have many ideas to address them. Education technology provides innovative ways to get there. The EdTech Innovation Bootcamp connects these to support real change within our classrooms."

The Bootcamp precedes the Michigan EdTech Innovation Pitch Contest (https://michiganvirtual.org/edtechcatalyst/? utm_campaign=EdTech+Pitch+Contest&utm_source=outreach&utm_medium=print) which will be taking place on June 26, 2025. Last year, \$22,000 in prizes were awarded to first, second and third place winners to develop their business proposals.

To learn more and register for the upcoming Bootcamp and Pitch Contest, visit michiganvirtual.org/edtech-pitch-contest (https://michiganvirtual.org/edtechcatalyst/).

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