

## **CHANCELLOR’S INNOVATION AWARDS 2025**

UC San Diego’s innovators play an essential role in translating ideas into actions to improve the lives of others and address the grand challenges of our global society. The UC San Diego Chancellor’s Innovation Awards recognizes truly exceptional innovators - faculty, students and recent alumni - for their success in launching new startup companies or other entities, or in developing technologies, social platforms or other social innovations through their research, program participation or activities across campus. The Chancellor’s Innovation Awards recognize and celebrate the uniquely Triton innovative culture and entrepreneurial spirit that have become defining hallmarks of UC San Diego.

### **STUDENT/ALUMNI INNOVATOR OF THE YEAR**

The Student/Alumni Innovator of the Year Award recognizes an entity created by a UC San Diego student or a recent alum whose innovative or entrepreneurial activities have either had a measurable societal impact in the last year or exhibit great potential to make a substantial societal impact in the near-term future.

### **REVIEW CRITERIA**

Consider to what degree the Entity has:

- Contributed to innovative policy development, new business or educational processes, social innovation, discovery and/or technology.
- Achieved independent recognition of value- through customer acquisition, uptake by governmental or educational institutions, creation of a new entity
- Made positive impacts on other innovators – “pay it forward” effect
- Demonstrated their self-initiative and entrepreneurial leadership throughout their time as a UC San Diego student
- Demonstrated that their innovation is aligned with their career goals
- Manifesting the embodiment of the spirit of UC San Diego through their innovation.

This award is open to entities established by undergraduate and graduate students, from all academic majors or disciplines in good academic standing who are currently enrolled in a degree- program, or who have earned their degree within the last **five** years at the time of the award.

### **CASH PRIZE**

The Student/Alumni Innovator of the Year Award comes with a single, cash prize of \$25,000 made payable to the entity or service providers associated. Note: this prize is not intended to be awarded directly to an individual student/alum or sole proprietor.

### **REVIEW PROCESS**

The Chancellor’s Innovation Awards Selection Committee members will independently review and provide a score for each applicant based on an objective scoring rubric designed to evaluate the uniqueness of the innovation(s) and their potential economic and societal impact. The scoring rubric will include the criteria above, along with any additional metrics established by the IEC or Awards Committee.

## WHO MAY APPLY and REQUIREMENTS

- Any member of the Triton community that meets the qualifications may apply
- A Student or Alum Applicant must include an endorsement or Letter of Support from at least one Dean, Director of an Innovation Center, Member of the IDEAS Council or Council of Innovation Leadership.
  - IDEAS Council: [IDEAS Council \(ucsd.edu\)](https://ucsd.edu/ideas)
- OPTIONAL: A second Letter of Support is allowable from a key customer, market leader, or industry operator with relevant field experience to comment on the merit of the application.
- Applicant must submit a 2-minute introductory video that illuminates the novelty of their solution, the impact of the innovation, and why they are the best person to make it happen.
- Past award recipients are not eligible for the program. Past applicants who did not receive an award may apply again.
- Applicants do not need to exemplify all criteria. Applicants can focus on one or more than one of the key selection criteria.
- All application material and content must be non-confidential in nature.

## GLOSSARY

**Inclusive/Inclusion:** An environment in which all individuals are treated fairly and respectfully; are valued for their distinctive skills, experiences, and perspectives; have equal access to resources and opportunities; and can contribute fully to the organization's success. More information: <https://diversity.ucsd.edu/initiatives/strategic-plan.html>

**Equitable/Equity:** Recognizes that some groups were (and are) disadvantaged in accessing educational, employment, or product access opportunities and are, therefore, underrepresented or marginalized in many organizations and institutions. More information: <https://diversity.ucsd.edu/>

**Sustainable/Sustainability:** Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. More information: <https://sustainability.ucsd.edu/about/principles.html>

**Return on Investment (ROI):** a performance measure used to evaluate the efficiency or profitability of an investment or compare the efficiency of a number of different investments. ROI tries to directly measure the amount of return on a particular investment, relative to the investment's cost. To calculate ROI, the benefit (or return) of an investment is divided by the cost of the investment. The result is expressed as a percentage or a ratio.

**Breakthrough Innovation:** based on new technologies or new ways of thinking and have a major or major potential impact on society. They are often disruptive to existing industries, ecosystems, or cultures - fundamentally changing the dynamics of a given market

**Intellectual Property (IP):** refers to creations of the mind, such as inventions; literary and artistic works; designs; and symbols, names and images used in commerce. IP is protected in law by, for example,

patents, copyright, and trademarks, which enable people to earn recognition or financial benefit from what they invent or create. By striking the right balance between the interests of innovators and the wider public interest, the IP system aims to foster an environment in which creativity and innovation can flourish. Types of IP include patents, copyright, and trademarks, trade secrets, geographic locations, and industrial designs.

**Underrepresented Minorities/Underserved Populations:** Underrepresented minorities: Races or ethnicities whose representation in a given audience, customer base, or market is smaller than their representation in the U.S. population. This includes Blacks or African Americans, Hispanics or Latinos, and American Indians or Alaska Natives.

Historically the University of California has classified as "underserved" from groups including African Americans, American Indians, and Chicano/Latinos (UCOP: Student Academic Services, 2003).

Underserved student populations may also include first-generation, low-income students, students from nontraditional ages and backgrounds, and students whose characteristics may be underrepresented in the university environment (Perna & Jones, 2013). With regard to technology and innovation in Startup companies, please also see the full list of California State protected classes.

- Race
- Color
- Religion (includes religious dress and grooming practices)
- Sex/gender (includes pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding and/ or related medical conditions)
- Gender identity, gender expression
- Sexual orientation
- Marital status