

CEC Holiday
Gift Guide

News

Events

Momentum Awards
Momentum Awards
Archive

The Beacon

Newsletter Signup

CEC in the News

[Home](#) / [News](#) / [The Beacon](#) / [State of Illinois Announces 12 Finalists in Innova...](#)

STATE OF ILLINOIS ANNOUNCES 12 FINALISTS IN INNOVATE ILLINOIS COMPETITION

On Thursday, 12 companies will compete in the Innovate Illinois Finals for a chance to be named one of Illinois' most innovative companies. The companies are competing for a chance to win \$80,000 in prize money, which will be used to help commercialize their product. The two top honorees at the finals will each receive a \$30,000 cash prize, and the two runners-up will each receive a \$10,000 second place prize.



The Innovate Illinois program is administered jointly by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) and the Chicagoland Entrepreneurial Center, an affiliate of the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce, which works to accelerate high-growth entrepreneurial companies. To learn more about the program, visit www.innovateillinois.org.

□The future of the Illinois economy depends in large part on our ability to leverage our existing strengths to develop new opportunities, □said DCEO Director Warren Ribley. □The Innovate Illinois competition provides the state's best and brightest with important resources to develop their ideas into market successes, and supports our efforts to further innovation in the state. □

The 2010 Innovate Illinois finalists are:

Early Stage Companies:

- **Diagnostic Photonics:** The company is developing a state-of-the-art, high resolution, imaging technology for real-time, in vivo use in the surgical suite.
- **HeartSounds:** A medical device company focused on providing 'smart' cardiac monitoring solutions that will improve efficiencies and advance the overall quality of patient care.
- **Lumec:** Presently developing its Dynamic Orifice Valve, a highly capable flow control device for commercial natural gas combustion processes.
- **R&R Racing:** Created a new design for a motorcycle brake master cylinder. It will dramatically improve safety for motorcycles.
- **Six Convert, LLC:** Developing an environmentally sustainable wastewater treatment practices that will reduce carbon dioxide emissions.
- **VesseITek BioMedical:** The company is developing implantable devices to improve the outcome of open and endovascular therapies.

Later Stage Companies:

- **Cazoodle:** Builds new search engines through the strength of their Data Factory technology that can crawl and transform the unstructured Web content into structured format.
- **Dr. Paul's Piggy Paste:** Produces a topical, over the counter product to improve the appearance of thick ugly toenails.
- **Innovative Exams:** Developed a self-service computerized testing system that allows candidates to take an exam while preventing cheating and protecting content.
- **Neurowave Medical Technologies:** Develops advanced neuromodulation devices for the treatment of a range of acute and chronic conditions.
- **Potential Pallet:** A pallet remanufacturing business that handles used pallets that would otherwise be put in landfills. They repair the pallets for re-sale at a discounted price to the customer.
- **WBT:** Manufacturers wire mesh cabletray products. The trays support, protect and provide a pathway for cabling, and are used in datacom, electrical, and industrial environments.

Of the over 90 companies from across the state that applied to the 2010 Innovate Illinois program, 38 were selected to present at one of three regional semifinals competitions, hosted by the Southern Illinois

University Carbondale Office of Economic and Regional Development, the Bradley University Entrepreneurship Center and the Chicagoland Entrepreneurial Center. The top four presenters from each of the regional semifinals were then advanced to the statewide finals, which includes two competition tracks for early and later-stage companies.

Semifinalist companies in the later stage were: Bolder Thinking, Cazoodle, CMMS Data Group, Dr Paul's Piggy Paste, InContext Solutions, Innovative Exams, LLC, NaturalMed Apothecary, Inc., Neurowave Medical Technologies LLC, Potential Pallet, Practice Velocity, LLC, Shift Worldwide, LLC, Southern Illinois Garden Supply, Vobal Technologies, LLC, and WBT.

Semifinalist companies in the early stage were: Algorithm Cabinet LLC, Church Music Solutions, D.M. Mattson, Inc., Diagnostic Photonics, Inc., Farm and Ranch Technologies, Kamelflage, L.B. Richwood, Lotus Creative Innovations, Lumec Control Products, Inc., On Your Own Emergency Survival Kits, PrintEco Inc., R&R Racing, Rover Enterprises, LLC, Six Convert, LLC, and Sugar Rides Inc.

Finalists in State's Innovate Illinois Competition Announced

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