



## Media Release

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## Tech Titans State-wide Competition Announces Winners

April 3, 2008 — Tech Titans' winning entries could end up in your living room, car, or doctor's office in the not-so-distant future. Tech Titans is a student-run design and idea competition open to both undergraduates and graduates in Utah.

The goal of the competition is to encourage students to develop and share new inventions and designs that have the potential to become technologies that can make an impact on the lives of people in Utah and beyond.

Scott Sundberg from the University of Utah won this year's grand prize. "TechTitans forced me to look at the complete picture to understand all of the potential markets for my idea, look more closely at what is already out there, and define how my idea could greatly improve on cancer detection techniques," said Sundberg.

All Utah colleges and universities are eligible to compete. Students from 7 of the 12 Utah colleges entered in disciplines ranging from computer software to consumer products. This year's entrants included students from the University of Utah, Brigham Young University, Utah State, Weber State, Southern Utah University, Utah Valley University, and Bridgerland Applied Technology College.

Dorthyann Isackson, a student from the University of Utah was the winner from the consumer products category. "Prior to the Tech Titans Competition, I really wanted to pursue my idea seriously, but I didn't know what to do," said Isackson. "This competition was the stimulus that helped me get my idea out on paper. It encouraged me to seriously research and further develop my ideas so that I could discover its true potential."

This year 5 awards were given out, one for each of the main categories of entry and a Grand Prize. The winners included:

- Grand Prize Winner Scott Sundberg, DaBerg Diagnostics from the University of Utah.
- Biotechnology idea submitted by Peter A. Read, Creighton Petty and Sahil Mehta, SOLVOGEL from the University of Utah
- Consumer Products idea submitted by Dorthyann Isackson, Team DI from the University of Utah.
- Computer Science idea submitted by Jacob Budd, The Informatic Specialists from the University of Utah.
- Engineering idea submitted by Aaron Willis, H<sub>2</sub> Transport from Utah Valley University.

Each of these students received \$1,000 to help develop their idea, along with 5 hours of free legal consulting from Thorpe North and Western. The Grand Prize winner who also received free legal consulting and walked away with \$5,000 to further develop their idea. These winners were recognized at the Tech Titans Final Awards Luncheon on March 29, 2008.

This was the third year of Tech Titans and it was very successful. Holt said, “We hope that each year Tech Titans will be able to reach out to more universities, more students, and make an even bigger impact in students’ lives, the Utah Economy, and world of innovation.”

Tech Titans is a non-profit student-run organization funded by both public and private sponsors. Tech Titans is now operated under the James LeVoy Sorenson Center for Discovery and Innovation Studies at the University of Utah. Sponsors for this competition include L3 Communication Systems-West, University of Utah’s Technology Commercialization Office, Omniture, Thorpe North and Western, Micron Technology, Governor’s Office of Economic Development, Grow Utah Ventures, and University of Utah’s Department of Engineering.

### **Tech Titans Competition**

<http://www.techtitans.utah.edu>