

Awards 2025

The process of choosing Finalists

As Mentors and other reviewers come around to the Critical Design Reviews, they look at all the prototypes and listen to each of the teams present their projects. They are looking for teams that have completed all of the requirements on the check list for each project. If a team can accomplish all of the tasks on the list, that team is on a list of potential candidates for being a finalist. The mentor then confers with the other reviewers at the CDR and asks for their opinion on the potential finalists. After the mentor for that area has seen all the projects for their part of the country, they will take all the potential finalist team brochures and decide which ones may be invited. Each region of the country is assigned a number of teams they can invite to the Final Design Showcase according to the number of students in their region. The more students they have, the more teams they are allotted to invite. The mentor has to choose their top teams to invite and represent their area. Because the mentor is choosing their top projects, that area might have lots of teams doing one or two projects and none doing another projects. This year HUNCH will have several teams for Lunar Landing Legs and fewer projects on Cube Sat Heat rejection. This reflects student interest but also the amount of innovation the Mentors saw in their area.

If you are a Finalist, congratulations!! Your team did a great job developing your project and demonstrated significant testing to demonstrate your prototype could do all the tasks on the requirements list. Your team presented your project well and were able to defend your ideas from questions from your Mentor and reviewers. Your project stood out to the reviewers as a well-done project. Great job!!

If you are a Semi-Finalist, congratulations!! Your team may have been a potential finalist. Your team accomplished all or most of the requirements for the project. You may have done a good job of presenting and answering questions about your project. Your team did some of the testing for the prototype of your project. Reviewers had good things to say about your team and project. Good job!!

If you are an Honorable Mention—Congratulations!! Your team may not have completed all the requirements for the project but there were some interesting ideas in what was accomplished. Reviewers saw some good ingenuity in what you had finished. You deserve credit for seeing and doing something other people did not. Keep this up!!

If you did not receive an award, realize that you were up against some tough competition—there were a lot of really good projects this year. Also recognize that you have done something that many engineers have not—you took an idea from your head and turned it into something in your hands. Just because you didn't receive an award does not mean you won't make a good engineer. The real questions you need to answer is what do you want to do? Where do you want to go with your education? (I never received an award for engineering or science in school, but I am working in the space program because I like it.)

Thank you to all the teachers!!! You are inspiring your students every day and pushing them to think different and new ideas. You are making the future.

Glenn