

Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy

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December 2, 2014



Policy Challenge Results – Finals in February 2015



On Nov. 19, 2014, twelve teams competed in the first **Howard Baker Public Policy Challenge** in the Toyota Auditorium, at the Howard Baker Center for Public Policy on the UT campus. Based on the Penn Challenge, developed by the Fels Institute at the University of Pennsylvania, the HBPPC attracted around 80 students on 15 teams. Over the course of the semester, the teams lost members and/or gained members, with a final 12 teams competing in the semi-final. From these 12 teams the top five were selected, by a five-member panel of judges, to fully develop their proposals and compete in the February 2015 Finals for the top three spots and cash prizes to further their solutions. The top five teams were:

- **Connect Forward** (Linking TN Families First clients to jobs) - Joey Car, Ian Barry, and Cheryl Flowers - Graduate students – College of Social Work
- **Gardens on the Go** (Food Deserts) - Rachel Owens, Grad. Social Work, Ashlee Hall, Grad. Student, Social Work; Virginia Williams, Freshman, Nursing; and Sophie Wilk - Freshman, Nursing
- **Pay Now/Pay Later** (Mental health screening for youth in juvenile justice system) - Joy DuVoisin, Hannah Jones, Anna Lahrs, and Laurel Strozier, Grad. Students, College of Social

Work

- **Education Equality Now! Extending TN Promise to Non-Citizen Students** - Gus White, Freshman, Global Studies; Kim Bress, Freshman, Neuroscience; Olivia Poston, Freshman, Architecture; Juan Gutierrez - Law student; and Brenda Adimora- Law Student
- **Project (bag)gage** (Removing plastic bags from UT Campus) Shelbie Francescon, Freshman, Nuclear Engineering; Rachel Gunia, Freshman, Sports Management; Don Black, Freshman, Aerospace Engineering; Troy Williamson, Graduate student, Master Policy & Public Administration; Sarah Ball, Freshman, Architecture; and Autumn Bruce, Freshman, Marketing

The judges for the Challenge were:

David Dewhirst – Dewhirst Properties; **Pam Fansler** – East Region President, First Tennessee Bank; **Doug Lawyer** – VP Economic Development, Knoxville Chamber of Commerce; **Bill Lyons** – City of Knoxville Deputy to the Mayor and Chief Policy Advisor; and **Meghan Morgan** – attorney – Baker Donelson



All students who competed in the semi-final Challenge did an extraordinary job. The student were assigned to teams based on their interests, with an eye to creating inter-disciplinary teams with freshman to graduate students engaged. A listing of the additional teams competing follows below:

Additional Challenge Teams Competing in the Howard Baker Public Policy Challenge

The Advocates: Youth Incarceration – Marriah Paige – Graduate student, Law; Folosade Omogun – Graduate student, Law; Meghan Treece – Senior, Political Science/Sociology

Reach Out Tennessee: **NAS** – Brittney Davis – Graduate student, Social Work; Kahadijah Jackson - Graduate student, Social Work; Heather Poster – Graduate Student, Social Work

Housing First: Homelessness - RJ Vogt – Senior, College Scholars – Literature; Heather Dickson – Junior, TV Production; Paul Attea – Senior, Architecture

Center for Energy Research @ UT – Cullen Sayegh – Freshman, Economics; Christina Gore – Sophomore, Environmental Studies; Jacob Cecil – Junior, Global Studies/History

Inspiring Change Agents (Youth Voting) – Anagha Uppal – Sophomore, Computer Science; McKenzie Ratner – Junior, Political Science; Tuck Shull – Sophomore, Political Science; Meghann McShane – Graduate student, Social Work

TN Infrastructure (High Speed Internet) – Shivam Zaveri – Senior, Industrial and Systems; Natalie Fisher – Senior, Legal & Political Philosophy Major

Last Mile Freight – Luis Valero – Freshman, Economics; Kenneth Townsend - Grad student, Landscape Architecture; Luis Diego Venegas - Grad student, Landscape Architecture

Our thanks to our UT faculty and staff advisory committee:

1. Ashleigh Moyer – Student Engagement & Leadership
2. Dr. Marianne Wanamaker – UT Economics
3. Dr. Mike McKinney – Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, Sustainability and Service Learning
4. Dr. Dave Folz – Political Science & TN Legislative Internships
5. Professor Joan Heminway – UT Law
6. Dori Stiefel – Political Science & Workshop Instructor
7. Sally Parish – Student Leadership & Ambassadors
8. Kelly Ellenberg – UT Provost Office and Service Learning
9. Dr. Stan Bowie – UT Social Work
10. Dr. Roger Parsons – UT Engage & Engineering
11. Dr. John Nolt – UT Philosophy & Sustainability
12. Professor Marleen Davis – UT Architecture
13. Dr. Ferlin McGaskey – TN Teaching & Learning Center
14. Dr. Carole Myers – Nursing
15. Dr. Bob Kronick – UT Education, Health and Human Sciences
16. Dr. Sylvia Turner – UT Chancellor’s Honors
17. Dr. Krista Wiegand – Baker Center Global Security Faculty Fellow Political Science professor
18. Dr. Charles Sims – Baker Center Energy & Environment Faculty Fellow & Economics professor
19. Dr. Bill Park – Baker Center Faculty Fellow, Undergraduate Academics
20. Dr. Matthew Murray – Baker Center Dir., Ctr Business & Economic Research, Economics professor
21. Dr. Nissa Dahlin-Brown – Baker Center Assoc. Director and Challenge Director

And to our Baker Ambassador Student Advisory Committee:

Alexis Skaggs, Senior
Ashley Jakubek, Senior
Chris Jones, Sophomore
Trevor Dixon, Sophomore

Michael Hensley, Sophomore
Caitlyn McCandless, Sophomore
Will Gilman, Sophomore

The HBPPC Finals are scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 22, 2015 in the Toyota Auditorium. Questions? Contact Nissa Dahlin-Brown, Nissa@utk.edu

