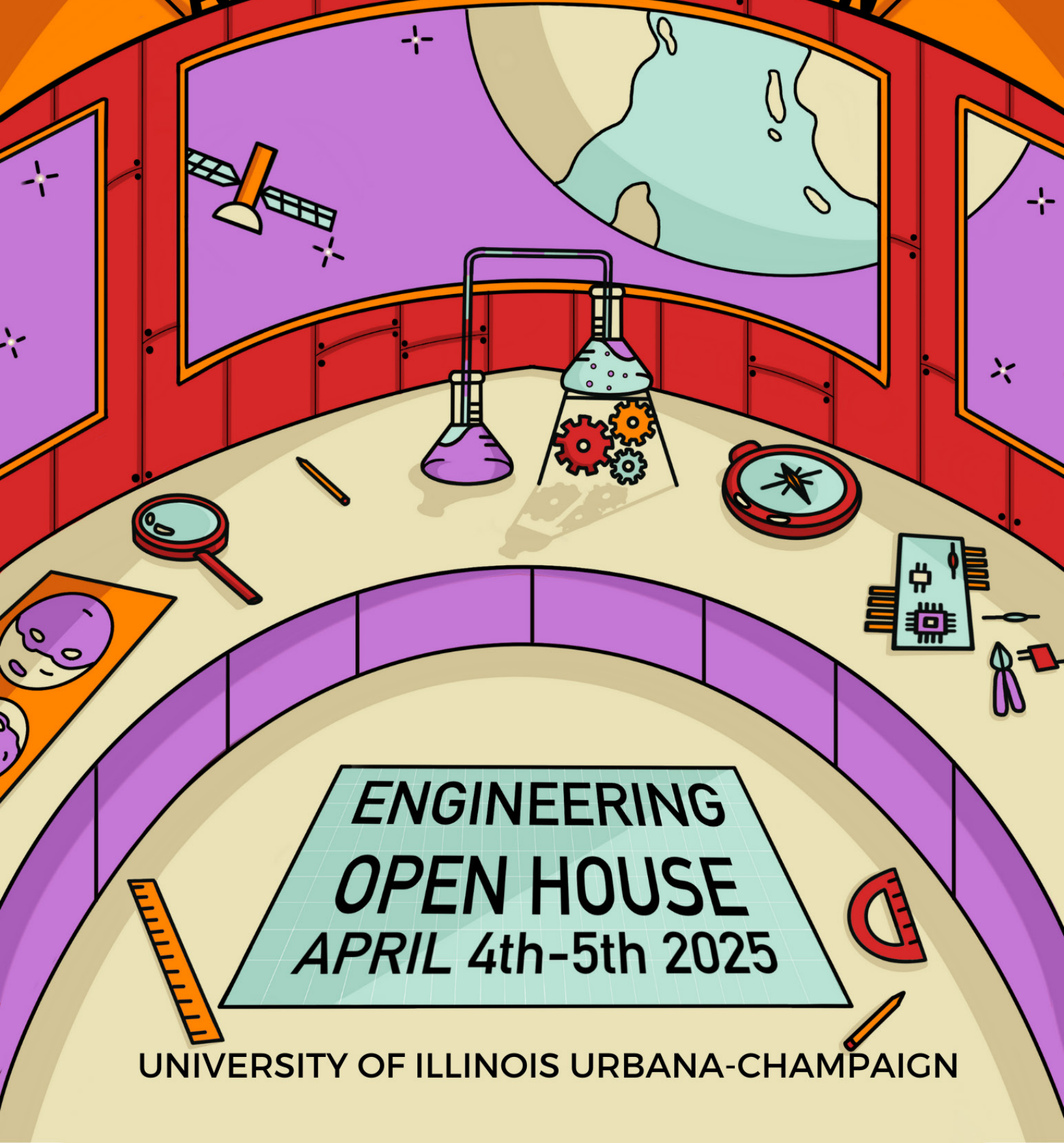


STARTUP SHOWCASE GUIDE

AGE OF INNOVATION



**ENGINEERING
OPEN HOUSE
APRIL 4th-5th 2025**

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

STARTUP SHOWCASE

I'm thrilled to welcome you to the EOH Startup Showcase 2025, where we're bringing together 10 of the top startups from UIUC's thriving entrepreneurial ecosystem. These startups represent some of the most innovative ventures on campus, each pushing the boundaries of what's possible in their industries.

This year, we're especially focused on showcasing a diverse group of founders and ventures, spanning AI, MedTech, sustainability, hardware, and more. Each of these startups is solving real-world problems in groundbreaking ways, and we're excited for you to experience their work firsthand. Whether you're here to engage with founders, explore cutting-edge technology, or watch the pitch competition, we hope you leave inspired by the passion and ingenuity on display.

UIUC has a long legacy of producing world-changing startups, from YouTube and Yelp to PSYONIC and Natrion, and today's founders are carrying that legacy forward. But what makes this showcase special isn't just the groundbreaking ideas—it's the community of innovators, builders, and problem-solvers that come together to make it happen.

Being a founder means navigating challenges, taking risks, and pushing forward even when the path is uncertain. But it's events like these that remind us that entrepreneurship is not a solo journey. The connections made here—whether through conversations at a booth, networking at the pitch competition, or exchanging ideas—can become the stepping stones to something bigger.

A huge thank you to everyone who made this event possible—our startups, sponsors, the Technology Entrepreneur Center, and everyone who continues to support and foster innovation at UIUC.

As you explore the Startup Showcase and the rest of EOH, I encourage you to ask questions, make connections, and get inspired, because the next great idea might just start today.

See you out there!

Karan Jain
Startup Showcase Director
Engineering Open House 2025



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

The Startup Showcase is dedicated to celebrating student entrepreneurs, taking place on both Friday and Saturday.

Startup Booths

TEC Office, CIF 1038 **Friday 9 am-4 pm**

TEC Office, CIF 1038 **Saturday 9-11 am, 1-4 pm**

Startups chosen to participate in the competition will host booths to share their ideas with visitors. Come see what our inventive Illinois students have been working on at their booths and experience demos, giveaways, and much more!

Keynote Speaker

CIF Monumental Steps **Saturday 11 am-11:30 pm**

Cara Bognar is an athlete, engineer, and entrepreneur dedicated to building opportunities at the intersection of sports, leadership, and business. She is the Founder & CEO of Top Tier Lessons, a nationwide platform that connects college athletes with families seeking high-quality sports coaching. Since launching, the company has expanded into 15 of the largest cities across the country, facilitated thousands of lessons, and secured funding from top venture funds, including M25, raising over half a million to scale her vision. A former Division 1 swimmer and team captain, Cara has experienced firsthand the discipline, resilience, and leadership required to excel in both athletics and business. With a background in engineering from the University of Illinois, she applies problem-solving, system thinking, and innovation to entrepreneurship. She is passionate about empowering young women and inspiring the next generation to take bold risks, step into leadership, and create meaningful impact. As a speaker, Cara shares insights on athletic mindset, resilience, leadership, and entrepreneurship, helping young professionals apply the lessons of sports to business and life, demonstrating how training, discipline, and a long-term mindset drive success in any field.



Pitch Competition

CIF Monumental Steps **Saturday 11:30 am-1 pm**


Startups will compete against one another for a chance at a \$5,000 award towards their business, sponsored by the Technology Entrepreneur Center (TEC) at the University of Illinois!

STARTUP DIRECTORY

Blink Systems | <https://blinksystems.org/>

Michael Talapin, CEO, Lead Engineer; Nithin Durgam, COO, Lead of Software

We are revolutionizing the mobility device market with a hands-free, multi-directional platform that empowers users with seamless control. Featuring built-in obstacle avoidance and pathfinding, our cutting-edge technology redefines freedom of motion and independence. While our initial focus is on mobility solutions, our innovation has the potential to expand into other industries, such as robotics, logistics, and automated navigation, opening new possibilities for intelligent motion systems.

The logo for Blink Systems, featuring the word "Blink" in a large, black, serif font.

Echo Me | <https://www.illinoisenactus.com/echome>

Remy Hilpp, Co-Founder & CEO; Nick Gavin: Co-Founder & CTO; Aditya Raju: Lead Engineer; Shikha Shah: Project Manager; Shagun Khare: Outreach Strategist; Calista Gunawan: Operations Lead; Meg Dixit: Media Lead

Echo Me creates interactive plush toys designed to help prevent speech disorders in young children through guided play. Our toys use auditory bombardment—playing targeted speech sounds when moved—to help children develop difficult speech patterns while improving their motor skills.

The logo for Echo Me, featuring the word "echo" in blue and "me" in red, with a stylized sound wave icon between them.

eFold

Aaron Liu, Founder; Stephen Mathew, Project Manager; Jimmy Song, Mechanical Subteam Lead

eFold is an innovative and convenient solution to portable transport - a foldable electric skateboard. We envision a new transportation gadget that is not only versatile and durable, but small enough to fit in your backpack!

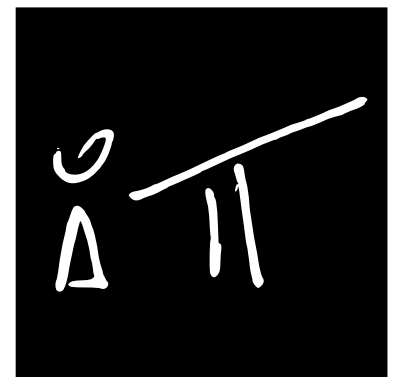
The logo for eFold, featuring the word "efold" in a stylized, lowercase font, with the "e" in blue and "fold" in black.

UNPACK. UNFOLD. CRUISE.

Geni

Philip Montgomery, CEO; Yun (Tiger) Wang, CTO; Regina Farnsworth, Product Designer; Arslan Kamchybekov, Software Engineer

Geni makes boring assignment engaging by personalizing them into a child's favorite subject.



InvoGenix | <https://www.invogenix.app/>

Sofia Marin, Co-founder; Alexander Kim, Co-founder; Ananya Kavatekar, Operations Strategist; Krutang Thaker, Chief Engineer; Alex Cerullo, Engineer

We are an AI-based medical technology startup focused on creating an end-to-end tool from patient-physician interactions to billing codes to reduce administrative duties and grow medical AI's ethical usage.





kWh

Arham Shah, Founder and Team Lead (UIUC); Ved Nair, Software Lead (UIUC); Mridul Ashokan, Regulatory Lead (UIUC); Maryanne Nwoye, Econometrics Lead (UChicago); James Zhang, Software Intern (UChicago)

kWh is creating a two-sided energy marketplace for India that connects producers and consumers for market-driven green energy trades – with increased revenue for producers and reduced costs for distributors.



MiRage | <https://www.vrmiragelabs.com>

Collin Fox; Juhi Malik; Upanshu Parekh; Adrain Russo

Gamify chemistry labs in virtual reality.



SARAS | <https://www.loom.com/share/cecb8873db4b42fc94b738e76c5ef73c?sid=d33c5873-0623-4856-9a3b-c7079f2b2ad3>

Sahej Singh, CTO; Aashay Desai, COO

SARAS is an AI assistant that does product research for you, backed by data and real user reviews.



TRVISE

Trvise

Aaditya Voruganti, CEO and Co-founder; Pranav Penmatcha, CTO and Co-founder; Ethan Massey, CDO and Co-founder

Trvise is an AI-powered AR platform that provides real-time, step-by-step guidance for product assembly and quality control. Our system integrates Visual Language Models (VLMs) and Large Action Models (LAMs) to upskill workers and improve manufacturing efficiency.



**STAY CONNECTED
WITH US!**



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