Ford College Community Challenge Boosts Sustainability, Student Innovation with $250,000 in Grants

- Ford Motor Company Fund, the philanthropic arm of Ford Motor Company, is awarding $250,000 in Ford College Community Challenge (Ford C3) grants for student-led projects
- The U.S. program is in its eighth year of supporting sustainable efforts to address urgent community needs focused on “Building Sustainable Communities”
- Ford C3 continues to grow in the U.S., expanding to include Tribal Colleges, and also is extending its reach globally to include Brazil, China, and several African nations

DEARBORN, Mich., Oct. 7, 2015 – Twelve years ago Brian Fountaine was a tank commander on patrol in Iraq when two bombs exploded under his Humvee, taking both of his legs and nearly killing him. Today, Brian is a design student at Northeastern University using 3D printing technology to develop high-quality, less-expensive prosthetic limbs for veterans and other amputees.

The work of Brian and his team is one of 10 student-led sustainability projects awarded a 2015 Ford College Community Challenge (Ford C3) grant from Ford Motor Company Fund. Ford C3 recognizes colleges and universities for utilizing school resources and student participation to address an urgent community need under the theme: Building Sustainable Communities.

Ford C3 winners are required to present proposals for sustainable projects with significant student input, involvement and leadership. Water conservation, renewable energy, urban gardening, recycling and mobility are among the proposals submitted by these creative teams of students. Each of the winning projects will receive a $25,000 grant to support their project.

“Innovation and sustainability are two essential elements that will help strengthen communities and improve the quality of life for the people who call them home,” said Mike Schmidt, director of Education and Community Development, Ford Motor Company Fund. “Education is how we open the door to a better world and inspire a new generation of engineers and entrepreneurs to lead us into a successful future.”

The Ford C3 grants are part of more than $1.7 million in new and ongoing global educational investments by Ford Fund, which contributes more than $8 million annually in scholarships, grants and other initiatives. Ford Fund is the philanthropic arm of Ford Motor Company.

Ford Fund this year also worked with the American Indian College Fund to run a C3 program with Tribal Colleges and Universities in the U.S. for the first time, while also continuing the Ford Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Community Challenge. Ford C3 last year launched in Brazil and China, and expanded this year to include Ghana, Kenya, Morocco and South Africa.

Campus Compact, a national higher education association dedicated to campus-based civic engagement, again partnered with Ford Fund in the U.S. to inform some 600 schools about this year’s grant program.
2015 Winning U.S.-Based Projects

- **Rocky Mountain College - Billings, Montana: Broken Glass to Working Class**
  Students will combat homelessness by teaching homeless citizens to recycle and repurpose glass waste, while also learning marketable job skills and keeping glass waste out of landfills.

- **Northeastern University - Boston: Designing for Mobility of Veteran Amputees**
  This project utilizes 3D printing technology to develop prosthetic limbs for veterans and others.

- **Wayne State University - Detroit: Ford Warrior STEAM Saturday Challenge**
  Detroit K-12 students and their families will participate in the Warrior STEAM – Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math – Challenge. Participants will use STEAM skills to solve community-based problems or create a finished product to better the community.

- **University of Georgia - Athens, Georgia: Hands and Hooves for a More Sustainable Community**
  Building on their 2014 Ford C3 award-winning project, the Chew Crew will complete a mobile shelter/outdoor classroom and restore two landscapes using goats to eat invasive plant species.

- **Morehouse College - Atlanta: Mentoring Youth Entrepreneurship Club Innovation Lab**
  This project will create a maker space, Innovation Lab to provide students with the tools and resources to take creative ideas through the engineering and design processes.

- **Michigan Technological University - Houghton, Michigan: Plastic Recycling to 3D Printer Filament**
  Team will work with the local community to incorporate a wider variety of plastics into recycled filament, and upgrade machinery to use this recycled product to produce the filament.

- **Michigan State University - East Lansing, Michigan: Rainwater Catchment for Primary School in Buyuni, Tanzania**
  In Tanzania a rainwater water collection system is necessary to obtain precious water. This project focuses on capturing rainwater at a primary school in Buyuni, Tanzania, filtering the water, and then storing it for use by the wider community.

- **University of Wisconsin - Madison: Slow Food South Madison Partnerships for Sustainability**
  This proposal seeks to increase the distribution of affordable, healthy food in an underserved area, making the existing Growing Power Market Basket Program more accessible in Madison.

- **University of Michigan - Ann Arbor: Fostering Environmental and Community Ownership in Vila Santa Marta, Brazil**
  Project is to counter the results of trash dumping in public places in Vila Santa Marta, Brazil by deterring dumping, increasing communication, building community pride and improving security.

- **Wayne State University - Detroit: From Volunteering to Career Paths - Student Leadership in Community Food Systems**
  This project will engage students in hands-on internships with community-based partners, to enhance skills and expand knowledge and thereby help further their careers in community food systems.

To view this year’s winning U.S. projects and get more information please visit: www.fordscholars.org/contests/ford-c3
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About Ford Motor Company Fund and Community Services

Ford Motor Company Fund and Community Services works with community and global partners to advance driving safety, education and community life. Ford Motor Company Fund has operated for more than 65 years with ongoing funding from Ford Motor Company. Ford Driving Skills for Life is free, interactive, hands-on safety training focused on skill development and driving techniques, while addressing inexperience, distractions and impaired driving. Innovation in education is encouraged through Ford Blue Oval Scholars, Ford Next Generation Learning and other inspiring programs that enhance high school learning and provide college scholarships and university grants. The Ford Volunteer Corps enlists more than 30,000 Ford employees and retirees each year to work on local projects that strengthen their communities and improve people’s lives in more than 40 countries around the world. For more information, visit http://community.ford.com.