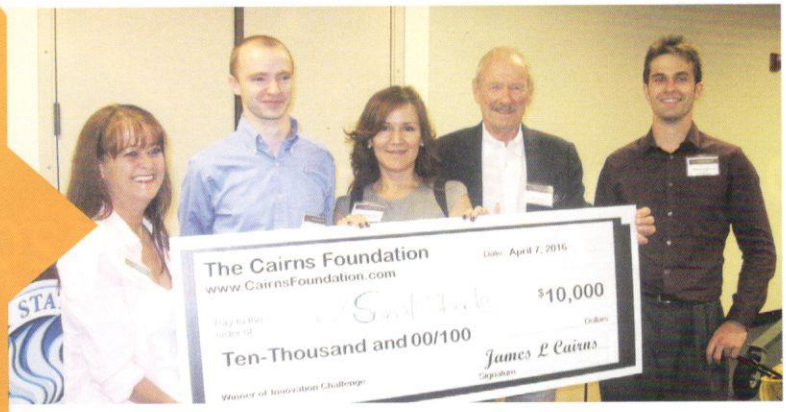
# Student team takes top prize at Cairns Innovation Challenge




## $10,000 and a year at business incubator

It's a lightweight, portable and flexible sun shade that easily attaches to any chair or lounger, ready for the beach, sporting events or your own backyard. So simple, it may leave you asking, "Why didn't I think of that?"

But the SunN' Shade device turned judges' heads as a ready-for-market invention by baccalaureate engineering technology students Matthew Cresenzi, Caelan Hickman and Matthew Morris. They scored top honors at this year's Cairns Foundation Innovation Challenge on April 7.

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This is a huge win, said Daytona State President Tom LoBasso. "We are all so proud of our student team and their advisor, Dr. Nabeel Yousef. The leadership he provided in this competition was outstanding."

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The competition, sponsored by the Cairns Foundation, Volusia County and the Volusia County - University of Central Florida Business Incubator, spotlights commercially viable technologies generated by students from the Central Florida region's eight colleges and universities. This year, it awarded a top prize of $10,000 plus a one-year resident enrollment in the UCF business incubator, and a $5,000 second-place prize funded by the Paul B. Hunter and Constance D. Hunter Charitable Foundation.

"It's exciting to see promising innovators step up from our local colleges and universities," said Jim Cairns, entrepreneur and head of the Cairns Foundation. "We're thrilled to see how this competition is growing, and look forward to having it again at DSC's Advanced Technology College in 2017."

The winning DSC team competed against five other finalist teams from DSC, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and Bethune-Cookman University. Other innovations included a portable crane by DSC students David Danner, Daniel Benech and Sinclair Stickle; a biogas generator by DSC students Jeffry Hall and Rember Quijada; a miniature flood monitoring system by a BCU team; and exercise monitoring and temperature control devices by two ERAU teams.