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Western Massachusetts-based FogKicker wins VentureWell's Open Minds Showcase for developing a biodegradable, non-toxic anti-fog solution

The startup received a \$3,000 cash prize to further their venture

Hadley, MA - Springfield-based company FogKicker has won VentureWell's 2017 Open Minds showcase, an exhibition of multidisciplinary groups of students working to bring science- and technology-based inventions to market. The event offers an opportunity for VentureWell-supported student inventor-entrepreneurs to pitch their innovations and receive feedback from faculty, VentureWell's extended staff, and funders. The team was awarded the top prize of \$3,000.

FogKicker developed a biodegradable and non-toxic anti-fog solution made from Nanocellulose, a wood-derived natural nanomaterial. The solution can prevent fog formation on any surface, including scuba masks, swim goggles, safety glasses, car windshields and bathroom mirrors. The team created the product while students at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

"FogKicker is a perfect example of the impact that students can have as scientific innovators, entrepreneurs, and the agents that commercialize and scale research breakthroughs," said Phil Weilerstein, president of VentureWell.

The prize was awarded to FogKicker CEO and Co-founder, Marc Gammell and CTO and Co-founder, Dr. Yinyong Li during the Open Minds reception at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C. on Saturday, March 25. The event was hosted by the museum's Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention. Each attendee was given \$3M in Venture Bucks to "invest" in their favorite team or teams. FogKicker received \$97M in Venture Buck investments.

The Open Minds event is a highlight of VentureWell's Open conference, an annual gathering of students, faculty, business leaders, and investors to discuss science and technology entrepreneurship education. This year's conference had a special focus on boosting innovation-led entrepreneurship on college campuses.

About VentureWell

VentureWell is a not-for-profit organization that supports an emerging generation of science and technology inventors and the innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystems critical to their success. VentureWell builds communities of practice among faculty in higher education and helps early-stage innovators develop products and ventures that improve life for people and planet. Inventions created by VentureWell grantees are reaching millions of people in more than 50 countries and helping to solve some of our greatest 21st century challenges. Visit www.venturewell.org to learn how we inspire inventors to transform game-changing ideas into significant social impact.