Plant Futures Challenge Lab

Creating a Diverse, Multi-disciplinary Talent Pipeline for the Global Plant–Rich Food and Agriculture Sectors

Plant Futures is empowering and equipping college students and early career professionals to be the ethical, entrepreneurial leaders of a plant–rich global food system. The Plant Futures Challenge Lab is a semester long applied learning course in plant-centric food systems. It provides students an opportunity to learn together by applying entrepreneurial and innovation tools and principles in collaboration with a professional Challenge Lab Partner (CLP). CLP’s—a diverse variety of for-profit, non-profit and academic organizations—have proposed challenges that their organizations are facing and will be teamed with 3–4 students to address these challenges in a semester-long project. Students will be matched and collaborate in interdisciplinary teams, working at the direction of a client/partner to address food systems challenges related to climate, health, animal welfare, and social equity. CLP’s provide active engagement, resources and mentorship. Teams will focus on challenges in a variety of subject areas including: product design and innovation, policy, behavior, supply chains and will take a systems approach to their proposed solutions. Students will be guided throughout the learning journey by the teaching team (via asynchronous mini-lectures, workshops, and direct coaching) and will apply tools and frameworks using ethical design strategies, and entrepreneurial mindsets, tool sets and skill sets.

Fall Interest Form: tinyurl.com/FallChallengeLab

The Plant Futures Challenge Lab qualifies for:
- Food Systems Minor
- Transforming Food Systems Graduate Certificate
- Sustainability Graduate Certificate
- Applied Innovation Credit (MBA Students)

Our past partners include:

ugba 192.4, 32668
MBA Students: MBA 292.4, 18884
Graduate Students (non–MBA): PBHLTH 209B, 32696

"The Challenge Lab has pushed me beyond my comfort zone unlike any other course! The intimate collaboration with individuals of varying backgrounds and expertise is the exact interdisciplinary experience I seek in my MPH education."

- Kassandra Bacon
- MPH Candidate, UC Berkeley

“Our participation in this course was extremely rewarding. The students were bright, insightful, and dedicated, and made contributions of real value to our team. Can we do this again? Sign us up!”

- David L. Katz, MD
- CEO, Diet ID

For more information about the Plant Futures Challenge Lab, please see our Course Information Guide:
tinyurl.com/plantfuturescourse