**Diamond Challenge Fundraising Compilation**

The purpose of this fundraising compilation is to better serve Diamond Challenge students as they strive to identify funding to travel to and from the semifinal round during the Diamond Challenge Summit at the University of Delaware. Semifinalists will be selected on or between **February 1, 2019 – March 10, 2019**.

**\*Please Note\*: All semifinalists are responsible for identifying funding resources necessary to be able to travel to and from the Diamond Challenge Summit. The Diamond Challenge Team will not cover any associated costs.**

These ideas will be presented in bullet point form, and showcase what successful initiatives individuals in our network have taken to increase sponsorship and fundraising opportunities in years past.

**Sponsorship Recruitment and Fundraising Tips**

* Begin the sponsorship and fundraising process beginning in August (as early as possible)
* Leverage personal connections and identify a contact in your network that can advocate for an in-person meeting/introduction
* Offer to get coffee, provide an initial engagement opportunity (i.e. judging, speaking, etc.) and bring the individual in to the pipeline as a sponsor for the following year
* Consider the three-pronged approach (engage intentionally at an event/outing, do something for the contact, and then submit a strategic ask)
* Create Gofundme pages
* Host mini fundraising initiatives (i.e. bake sales, car washes, school fundraisers, etc.) with fellow students, educators, etc.
* Cultivate a sponsor letter with a compelling reason why they should assist you
  + Mail and disperse broadly, but ensure the message is individually catered to each recipient
* Utilize the US Embassy, Ministry of Education, and other comparable organizations when seeking funding
* Have the students disperse emails and/or personalized, decorated letters asking for fundraising support – utilize images, quotes, and other meaningful items to showcase the impact the trip would have on the student. Have students (semifinalist winners) send the email message out to at least 25 adults (ideally individuals in their family, friends, neighbors, coaches, etc. – individuals who they have a personal connection to)