Nicholas Pancheri, a 2019 INBRE Fellow, and Alyssa Hansten, a 2021 INBRE Fellow, are 2021 Grand Challenge Scholars Program (GCSP) Pitch Event winners. Nicholas and Alyssa are both students in the Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering at the University of Idaho. This year, Nicholas and Alyssa submitted video proposals and then pitched their research projects at the GCSP Virtual Pitch Event in March 2021. Event judges consisted of members of the Idaho Academy of Engineers, University of Idaho College of Engineering faculty, and alumni. Along with three other GCSP Pitch Event winners from the College of Engineering, Nicholas and Alyssa received a total of $10,500 to fund their projects. Funding is provided through donor support.

The GCSP aims to prepare students to address what the National Academy of Engineers (NAE) has established as the 14 Grand Challenges for Engineering in the 21st century (http://www.engineeringchallenges.org/challenges.aspx). These challenges fall four main themes; Sustainability, Heath, Security, and Joy of Living. The projects proposed by Nicholas and Alyssa contribute to the Grand Challenge of “Engineering Better Medicines”. The GCSP at the University of Idaho is in its fifth year and is the only undergraduate program of its kind in the Pacific Northwest. Learn more about the GCSP at University of Idaho here https://www.uidaho.edu/engr/programs/grand-challenges.