



For Immediate Release  
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Contact: [Daniel First](#)  
(202) 225-2536

## Donalds Announces Presidential AI Challenge Project Submissions Due January 20th

WASHINGTON – Congressman Byron Donalds (R-FL) has released the following information in promotion of First Lady Melania Trump's [Presidential AI Challenge](#). In an effort to maintain American AI dominance and innovation, the First Lady's challenge aims to empower educators and the next generation of students.

### BACKGROUND:

[The Presidential AI Challenge](#) is a national challenge where K-12 youth, educators, mentors, and community teams come together to solve real-world problems in their communities using AI-powered solutions with an opportunity to showcase their solutions at a national level. Students and educators of all backgrounds and expertise are encouraged to participate and ignite a new spirit of innovation as we celebrate 250 years of independence and look forward to the next 250 years.

### TIMELINE:

- Online registration opens: **August 26, 2025**
- Project submission deadline: **January 20, 2026**
- Announcement of State Champions: As soon as **March 16, 2026**, but no later than **April 1, 2026**
- State Championship Teams present projects to and answer questions from a panel of judges (five virtual regional events): **March 27 - April 13, 2026**
- Announcement of Regional Champions: As soon as **April 16, 2026**, but no later than **May 1, 2026**
- Regional Champions who are invited to Washington, DC, for the National Finals and three days of AI-focused events will be notified. Selected teams will be notified no later than **May 15, 2026**
- Projects are judged while the Regional Champions are in Washington, DC **June 7-10, 2026**

### FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- **Watch:** First Lady Melania Trump's message about the challenge [HERE](#).
- **Read:** Presidential AI Challenge Guidebook for Participation [HERE](#).
- **Email:** [AIChallenge@science.doe.gov](mailto:AIChallenge@science.doe.gov)
- **Register:** [HERE](#).

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### Office Locations:

Washington DC Office  
1710 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515  
(202) 225-2536

Collier County Office  
3299 Tamiami Trail East, Suite 105  
Naples, FL 34112  
(239) 252-6225

Lee County Office  
1039 SE 9th Ave, Suite 308  
Cape Coral, FL 33990  
(239) 599-6033