This January, two WE2ST Scholars, Michelle and Micaela Pedrazas (along with their teammates) presented their product, known as Airband, at the Mines Innovation Challenge. Airband is a wearable air-quality monitor that utilizes special sensors to detect the levels and presence of hazardous air pollutants. Newmont Mining Corporation has selected their team to receive $2,000 to further develop and refine their ideas!

They will then move forward to present their project prototypes on March 21-24 at the 118th National Western Mining Conference, competing with nine other teams. Final judging will be on April 20th when finalists will give a 10-minute pitch to a panel who will evaluate the team and quality of their innovation. A total of $30,000 in cash prizes will be presented to the top three teams!

WE2ST wishes them luck with the upcoming competitions!

WE2ST Guest Speaker
Bill Ritter
"The Road to Sustainability: Regulations in a Difficult Oil and Gas Economy"
[Video of the talk](#)

John McCray was part of an expert panel for Water and Energy: Enabling and Modeling Sustainability in the Nexus.
Hosted by the Center for Energy Studies at the Baker Institute for Public Policy, Houston, TX.