



Praveen Palaniswamy,

Thank you for participating as a judge at MakeOHI/O 2026. We appreciate your participation as a volunteer on March 7-8, 2026. MakeOHI/O was a 24-hour hackathon that attracted over 400 participants this year for a full weekend of coding, building, learning, and innovation. The OHI/O program gives students a unique, experiential- learning opportunity to build technology projects from scratch in a welcoming, supporting environment.

Teams came with unique technological and business ideas or took inspiration from the challenges presented by our supporting companies and organizations. After the "hacking" session, teams presented their projects to industry experts and judges for feedback and to compete for prizes.

OHI/O is a student organization at The Ohio State University, dedicated to fostering tech culture at the university and its surrounding communities in Central Ohio.

We looked for industry and research professionals with expertise in STEM and a business mindset to mentor teams and provide valuable feedback during the event. You demonstrated both technical and business skills that helped students advance their ideas. As a part of 60 industry and academic judges you evaluated several projects on 5 different metrics.

The Judging rubric was based on 5 criteria:

- **Innovation:** Challenge the norm by analyzing existing solutions through testing or research, then exploring ways to improve or reinvent.
- **Curiosity:** Effectively communicating project concepts including a visual representation that explains the project's development process and purpose.
- **Project Breadth and Complexity:** Leveraging knowledge and skills from the humanities, engineering, and science to successfully make complex/nontrivial new innovations.
- **Impact:** The project seeks to provide a solution with potential social, economic/business, environmental or other tangible value.
- **Navigating challenges:** Testing ideas, recognizing barriers or failures as important moments of feedback and pivoting accordingly.

We are committed to promoting the tech culture and supporting the next generation of innovators. We provide opportunities for our students to learn outside of the classroom as well as alternative ways for employers to meet prospective hires.

Thank you, Praveen Palaniswamy, for participating at MakeOHI/O! Your contributions helped make this event a success.

Thank you,

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