TEAM SUNERGY

Join a winning team
SUSTAINABILITY DRIVES US

At Appalachian, it’s not enough to change the world—we want to change it for the better. Our commitment to being sustainable economically, environmentally and equitably drives our students, faculty and staff to improve the quality of life for future generations. For Team Sunergy, Appalachian’s solar vehicle team, that mission means developing, testing and refining technology that is changing the future of transportation.
“This incredible group of students and their faculty mentors represent both the entrepreneurial spirit and the deep and lasting understanding of sustainability that is representative of Appalachian.” – Chancellor Sheri N. Everts

“This is what really distinguishes our students: they see the importance of making our transportation sector cleaner, and of using clean energy to power it.”
– Dr. Jeremy Ferrell, faculty advisor
WHO IS TEAM SUNERGY?

Student-led and student-driven, Team Sunergy began in 2013 in the imagination of then-undergraduate student and Army veteran Dan Blakeley, when he collaborated with classmates to convert a gas-powered golf cart into a solar-fueled vehicle.

Now a team of undergraduate and graduate students dedicated to hard work, research and trial-and-error, Team Sunergy has earned a reputation as a leader in the “brain sport” of solar vehicle technology. With team members from all backgrounds and majors, ranging from music and business to physics and sustainable technology, Team Sunergy is a diverse group that embodies Appalachian’s commitment to sustainability. Instead of approaching the design of a solar vehicle as an engineering problem, the team sees it as an exercise in problem solving for a better future.
RUNNIN’ ON SHINE

In 2016, Team Sunergy competed in their first international race, the Formula Sun Grand Prix. Racing against the world’s top engineering universities, Team Sunergy took third place.

In 2017, they returned and did it again, moving from third to second on the Circuit of the Americas, one of the most coveted motorsports racetracks in America.

While racing on professional tracks and winning international competitions is exhilarating, Team Sunergy approaches this competition as a way to showcase technology that will make real and powerful differences in the very near future. These victories demonstrate the ingenuity of our students—the leaders and innovators of tomorrow.

“As an alum of App State working in the motorsports industry, it is exciting to see today’s students looking towards the future of sustainable transportation. It’s a badge of honor for me personally to be involved with the success of Team Sunergy.”

– Chad Seigler ’97, Vice President, Business Development, NASCAR
THE CAR OF THE FUTURE

Team Sunergy is developing the next generation of their solar vehicle. The new “cruiser class” car will seat two and look and drive like the future’s road-ready sedan. Blakeley wants people to look at their new car and say, “I want to drive one of those every day.”

With a growing reputation as innovators, Team Sunergy will continue to improve the technology and test it in increasingly challenging competition settings. However, for this team of diverse and dedicated students, it is not about winning a race, but creating an energy-efficient vehicle that has the least impact on the environment.

“The technology we’re perfecting can help us develop the next generation of vehicles that people will be driving in the next 20 to 30 years.”

– Dan Blakeley, ’15, graduate student, project director and founder
JOIN A WINNING TEAM

Appalachian and Team Sunergy are committed to improving the future of transportation and the quality of life for the next generation. Right now, they are developing the technology to do just that, but they need your help.

Join this incredible winning team and help Appalachian students in their race toward the future of transportation.

Contact us:
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Want to know more about Team Sunergy’s successes?
appstate.edu/shine