# Smart Campus Competition

# Year: 2024-2025 University: Rutgers University

## Winning Team: RU Locked In

**Problem:** Students currently spend an average of 8.3 hours per semester planning their courses, often navigating 10+ websites. This manual process contributes to chaos and a lack of connection among peers. A significant majority (85%) report that course information is not easily accessible, and studies show that students who share classes with friends tend to perform better.

**Solution: RUNetworking** offers an AI-powered platform that aims to simplify schedule building and foster student connections. Key features include:

* **AI-Powered Schedule Building:** Unlike existing solutions that require manual browsing of randomly generated schedules, RUNetworking automates the process, reducing time spent from 8+ hours to an estimated 20 minutes.
* **Connecting Classmates:** The platform enables students to reach out and connect with peers in their classes, addressing the current isolation issue.
* **Comprehensive Features:** Includes a course assistant, saved schedules, calendar and list views, advanced filters, and integration with existing university systems like WebReg and Degree Navigator.

**Feasibility & Cost-Efficiency:**

**RUNetworking** leverages open-source and low-cost services to ensure feasibility and scalability. Technologies used include Next.js, OpenAI API, PostgreSQL, and Supabase. The cost model projects significant optimization, transitioning from API-only responses to serverless responses for efficiency as user numbers grow. The monthly cost for 50,000 users is projected to be significantly lower with optimization compared to an API-only approach.

**Roadmap & Vision:**

* **Launch (2025):** Initial launch at Rutgers University (New Brunswick, Newark, and Camden campuses).
* **Scaling:** Future plans involve scaling the application to account for all Rutgers campuses.
* **Expansion:** Expanding beyond Rutgers to other universities, using resources like umd.io for University of Maryland data as an example of similar initiatives.
* **Procurement:** Continuously gather more efficient resources (APIs, data dumps) to support application scaling.

**Vision:**

The long-term vision is to serve 500,000+ students across Big Ten Universities and eventually millions of students across the USA during registration season, significantly increasing network traffic and improving the student experience nationwide.