



PRESS RELEASE

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PAVE Global Launches Student Design Challenge with Vanguard Companies and The Home Depot.

KANSAS CITY, MO (February 13, 2023) -- Vanguard Companies ("Vanguard"), founded in 1975, is a leading designer and manufacturer of value-added point-of-purchase displays, retail-ready packaging, industrial packaging products and related assembly, logistics, and fulfillment services. Vanguard announces the official launch of the PAVE Global x Home Depot Student Design Challenge proudly sponsored by Vanguard Companies.

"We're thrilled to be partnering with PAVE Global," said Sharmarl King, Sr. Director of Visual & Off Shelf Merchandising for The Home Depot. "We're excited to see what fresh ideas the New Leaders bring to the table. This type of competition is so relevant for students, as in many ways, it mimics how we approach the "In Store Presentation" at The Home Depot. It gives the students a glimpse and insight into our internal design and ideation process."

This Student Design Challenge will bring together top student design talent, an industry-leading fixture manufacturer, and a retailer for a truly unique opportunity. The best student design will be selected and brought to life by Vanguard Companies to be displayed prominently within the PAVE booth at Shop! MarketPlace in Austin, Texas this April. The student designers behind the winning project will be attending the event to present their work in person.

"Vanguard Companies, a leading turnkey solutions provider of pop display and packaging products believes in the importance of giving back to the industry, community, and mentoring the next generation of design students. We're excited to partner with Home Depot and PAVE on the student design challenge and look forward to seeing fresh and innovative designs developed by the students," said Jeff Rafalski, Director of Strategic Marketing, Vanguard Companies.

Visitors of the PAVE booth can expect to be met with innovation, imagination, and sheer talent from this year's student designers. Shop! MarketPlace will be held at the Palmer Events Center in Austin, Texas from April 25th through the 27th. Additionally, attendees of Shop! MarketPlace are invited to join us on April 26th at The Rustic Tap for the PAVE Social as we continue to celebrate 30 years of PAVE supporting the future of In-Store Experiences.

To learn more about the PAVE x Home Depot Student Design Challenge sponsored by Vanguard Companies, please visit www.paveglobal.org/homedepotchallenge.

About Vanguard Companies

Vanguard Companies is one of the industry's leading corrugated merchandising solution partners. Our expertise in point-of-purchase displays, signage, retail-ready packaging, industrial packaging, and e-commerce packaging is demonstrated across every retail sector.

These products are amplified by our creativity, high-end graphics, digital printing, fulfillment services, and program management capabilities. We combine the latest shopper intelligence, award-winning design innovation, and technology to provide the most effective omnichannel display and packaging solutions. We are committed and focused on helping companies reduce program cost, create brand value, sell more products, and improve their bottom line. Learn more at www.vanguardpkg.com.

About The Home Depot

The Home Depot is the world's largest home improvement retailer with approximately 500,000 orange-blooded associates and 2,300 stores in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico. The typical store today averages 105,000 square feet of indoor retail space, interconnected with an e-commerce business that offers more than one million products for the DIY customer, professional contractors, and the industry's largest installation business for the Do-It-For-Me customer. Learn more at www.homedepot.com.

About Shop! Marketplace

Shop! MarketPlace is the must-attend trade event for retail industry professionals creating the in-store experiences consumers want today. It's where you can experiment, get hands-on with store concepts, talk with fellow retail experience creators, and engage with award-winning designers and retail thought leaders.

Come to Shop! MarketPlace, where the brands you know share their knowledge in deep-dive presentations, hands-on workshops, and powerful Smart! Talks and keynotes. Then take it to the show floor to discover ways to put your new ideas to work. Learn more at www.shop-marketplace.com.

About PAVE Global

Founded in 1992 as The Planning and Visual Education Partnership, PAVE Global is a 501(c)(3) charitable foundation, with all proceeds benefitting PAVE's educational programs. The organization enables young talent to build successful careers designing and creating consumer environments. Our vision is to cultivate relationships with students, educators, and the design industry through financial assistance, top-industry thinking, inspiration, and mentorship. For more information, please visit www.paveglobal.org.

<https://www.vanguardpkg.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Vanguard-Press-Release-Sponsor-of-2023-PAVE-Student-Design-Challenge.pdf>