

(3-28-19) Employee team wins with blockchain insurance solution at international hackathon

Mobile platform created in less than 36 hours named “most user-friendly onboarding experience.”



Four Pinnacol employees' innovation was recognized last month at ETHDenver, the world's largest Ethereum blockchain hackathon. More than 1,500 participants representing 23 countries and 31 states gathered in Denver Feb. 15-17 for the competition, workshops and community building. Hackathons are an opportunity for developers to experiment alongside other developers, thought leaders, advisers, and companies who are making the infrastructure and applications that will power the future.

Pinnacol User Experience Designers Alex Gardner and Bill Sterling, and Software Developers Daniel Wanja and Konstantin Papkovskiy (from left to right in photo) used emerging blockchain technologies to quickly create a mock mobile insurance identity platform, and a hypothetical use case for blockchain in the InsurTech industry. The team named its platform *Indure* and coined the tagline “creating insurance identities that last.” The team was presented with the hackathon’s “Most User-friendly Onboarding Experience” award.

[Watch a short video created by the team about the event.](#)

Indure is a blockchain insurance identity platform using [Uport](#) as the infrastructure to support identities for injured workers, policyholders and insurance carriers to share and verify credentials and allow for injured workers to get treated immediately without the hassle of having to cover costs up front or waiting to receive a claim number from the carrier.

“I’m so incredibly proud of the passion and dedication these guys showed by offering up their own time to participate in this event,” said Jan Birkelund, Pinnacol program development director, who manages the four team members. “They worked, in true hackathon fashion, until 3 a. m. on Saturday morning simply because of their passion to experiment to help make customers’ experiences better.”

CEO Phil Kalin was equally impressed.

“This team perfectly illustrates the Pinnacol spirit of transformation in action,” he said. “Innovation to make things easier for customers? Check. Learning new technologies? Check. Deploying new skills? Check. I’m so impressed by what they’ve done, and can’t wait to see how they build on this experience and what they’ve created.”

What is blockchain?

A blockchain is a simple but extremely secure way of passing information from one user to another (a transaction) in a time-stamped series of records (or blocks). The record of data is managed by a network of computers not owned or operated by any single entity. The blocks of data are secured and bound using cryptographic principles. Blockchain allows digital information to be shared but not copied. Blockchain will likely be part of what could be the most significant technological and social advancements since the birth internet.

Interested in learning more about blockchain?

Pinnacol offers three online courses that include blockchain in the [Learning Management System \(LMS\)](#). Search “blockchain” or click on the links below:

[Essentials of Bitcoin and Blockchain](#)

[Intro to Cryptocurrencies, Blockchain and Crypto Trading](#)

[How to Leverage Blockchain and Ethereum for Business](#)

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