

Dara Conway a senior Interior Design student won the first place in a national design competition sponsored by the Gerontological Society of America. She will receive \$500 cash and will be flown to Boston on November 18 to participate in a ceremony to receive her award during their annual meeting. Lillian McNeal received the honorable mention. The second place was also from Indiana, a ph.D student at Indiana University and assistant professor in Indianapolis University.

The Aging Means Business Student Design Contest invited undergraduate and graduate students to showcase their design ingenuity by proposing an original product for adults age 50+. The product can transform an existing device or be an entirely new creation. Using principles of universal design, knowledge of the 50+ market and imagination. Designs should have embodied this year's Aging Means Business theme, Design for a New Age. Students in gerontology, engineering, business, industrial design, architecture, interior design and social work were encouraged to apply.

Dara Conway designed a product that relieves back pain. The Back Remedy is a pain-relieving back brace that applies heat as well as a vibrational and massaging mechanism to encourage muscle relaxation. The brace provides a stable and comfortable attachment with supportive pressure so it doesn't move or slide out of the intended placement. Ergonomically designed with adjustable Velcro straps that wrap around the stomach and over shoulders, the brace captures the important muscle groups in the upper and lower sections of the back. Minimal stimulation is applied and controlled using the front attached electronic controlling device. The user can select the levels of heat, stimulation and the areas of muscles that it targets.

Lillian McNeal designed a knife. Easy Chopper Knife is hinged to the cutting board on the sharp end, and has a comfortable ergonomic handle on the other. The design is incredibly ergonomic with its redesigned handle that allows for easy grasp techniques.

Sixteen students from interior Design Program at Ball State University engaged in this exercise during the first four weeks of fall semester in FCSID 424, Interior Design Studio 5.