The retail industry is in the midst of significant strategic change with greater consumer demands for personalization, flexibility and responsiveness and operational demands driven by competition in supply chain management, store operations and consumer analytics.

The idea that retailing is just store clerks, cash registers, and hand carts is the thing of the past. Retailing today is about deep strategy, rich insights and fast paced demands. Many of these advances are driven by technology as complex and far-ranging as one would find in the most sophisticated global manufacturers.

The ri.lab at the Terry J. Lundgren Center of Retailing, in cooperation with other key departments and colleges on the University of Arizona campus, is hosting a retail technology pitch competition. This competition is driven by a series of retail technology areas identified by Plug and Play Tech Center - a startup accelerator based in Silicon Valley - who is taking an active role in supporting this initiative.

In this competition, student teams drawn from across the campus and across different academic disciplines, will have the opportunity to work together in creating and then pitching solutions to these pressing retail challenges. This process will involve working with faculty and mentors across campus and from the Tucson business community. Teams may also end up with an opportunity to be invited to Plug and Play's Startup Camp in Sunnyvale, California where the sky would be the limit. Regardless, it is a wonderful opportunity for students to learn how to work across disciplines and how they can develop an amazing career in the real retail industry.

So, please join us at our All Campus Information Session where you can learn much more about this competition and how you can get involved. If you have any immediate questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Scott Hessell, Director, Terry J. Lundgren Center for Retailing at shessell@email.arizona.edu.

All Campus Information Session  
To register for this information session, sign up at: http://ri-lab-orientation-session.eventbrite.com

Friday, October 7 @ 2:00pm 
Lecture Hall 103 in McClelland Park 
650 N. Park Avenue 
(across from the Park Student Union)