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Technology Entrepreneur Center



GRAINGER ENGINEERING

Technology Entrepreneur Center

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From the Associate Dean



The thriving entrepreneurship ecosystem at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign is an indispensable agent of economic development in

the state of Illinois, with impact across the nation and the world.

The establishment of the Office of Innovation and Entrepreneurship in The Grainger College of Engineering plays a pivotal role in supporting the collective vision and fundamental goals of the University's strategic plan to foster innovation and entrepreneurship.

As we enhance the capacity of our ecosystem through investments in EnterpriseWorks, Research Park, Discovery Partners Institute, and the Illinois Innovation Network, we affirm our commitment to establish the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign as one of the best university-based entrepreneurship and innovation hubs in the country.

ANDREW SINGER

Associate Dean for Innovation & Entrepreneurship

The Grainger College of Engineering

Fox Family Professor

Electrical & Computer Engineering

From the Executive Director



The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign has a vibrant and rapidly evolving entrepreneurial network with deep connections to our alumni and

partners across the state and the nation.

The Technology Entrepreneur Center continues to play an instrumental role in accelerating the growth of the UIUC entrepreneurship ecosystem through the Cozad New Venture Challenge; the BS Dual Degree in Innovation, Leadership, and Engineering Entrepreneurship (ILEE); academic courses; mentoring; and other resources.

Students have many opportunities to engage in entrepreneurship to further develop, build, and apply their skills, as well as network with peers, instructors, alumni, and other guest lecturers and collaborators.

We are committed to increasing the scale and reach of our entrepreneurship ecosystem to best promote the entrepreneurial mindset across all disciplines.

JED TAYLOR

Executive Director

Technology Entrepreneur Center
The Grainger College of Engineering

EXPLORE & IDEATE

A great place to start! Take a peek under the hood of innovation & learn what an entrepreneurship mindset might mean for you.

COURSES

- TE 100/200** | Introduction to Innovation, Leadership, & Engineering Entrepreneurship
- TE 230** | Design Thinking/Need Finding
- TE 333** | Creativity, Innovation, Vision
- SE 361** | Emotional Intelligence Skills
- TE 390** | Innovation & Engineering Design

UNDERGRAD CERTIFICATES

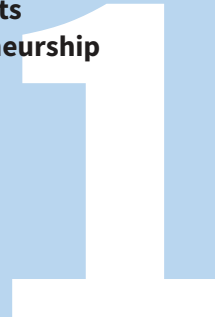
- Innovation
- Technology Commercialization

BS DUAL DEGREE

- Innovation, Leadership, & Engineering Entrepreneurship (ILEE)

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

- Accelerating Women & Underrepresented Entrepreneurs (AWARE)
- Entrepreneurship Advising
- Grainger Engineering City Scholars & Startup City Scholars
- Illinois Entrepreneur Hub at Siebel Center for Design
- Innovation Expo
- Innovation Living-Learning Community (LLC)
- Innovation Scholars
- Office Hours with Experts
- Silicon Valley Entrepreneurship Workshop
- SocialFuse
- Student Advisory Board
- ThinkChicago



DESIGN & EVALUATE

Ideas are developed here! Determine needs in the market & develop solutions that address real-world problems.

COURSES

- TE 230** | Design Thinking/Need Finding
- TE 250** | High Tech Ventures: From Idea to Enterprise
- TE 333** | Creativity, Innovation, Vision
- TE 360/460** | Lectures in Engineering Entrepreneurship
- TE 390** | Innovation & Engineering Design
- TE 401** | Augmented Listening Technology
- TE 510** | Advanced Creativity

UNDERGRAD CERTIFICATES

- Innovation
- Technology Commercialization

BS DUAL DEGREE

- Innovation, Leadership, & Engineering Entrepreneurship (ILEE)

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

- Accelerating Women & Underrepresented Entrepreneurs (AWARE)
- Entrepreneurship Advising
- Illinois Entrepreneur Hub at Siebel Center for Design
- Innovation Expo
- International Student Workshop
- Office Hours with Experts
- Silicon Valley Entrepreneurship Workshop
- SocialFuse
- Student Advisory Board



BUILD & LAUNCH

Startups take shape here! Dig deeper into the commercialization stage and make sure your startup is best prepared to hit the market.

COURSES

- TE 250** | High Tech Ventures: From Idea to Enterprise
- TE 298** | Communication for Tech Innovators
- TE 360/460** | Lectures in Engineering Entrepreneurship
- TE 401** | Developing Breakthrough Projects (*Independent Study*)
- TE 450** | Startups: Incorporation, Funding, Contracts, & Intellectual Property
- TE 461** | Technology Entrepreneurship
- TE 466** | High Tech Venture Marketing
- TE 498** | Organizing for Innovation
- TE 565** | Technology, Innovation, & Strategy

UNDERGRAD CERTIFICATES

- Innovation
- Technology Commercialization

GRAD CONCENTRATION

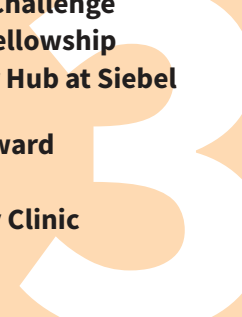
- Innovation & Entrepreneurship

BS DUAL DEGREE

- Innovation, Leadership, & Engineering Entrepreneurship (ILEE)

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

- Cozad New Venture Challenge
- Fiddler Innovation Fellowship
- Illinois Entrepreneur Hub at Siebel Center for Design
- Illinois Innovation Award
- Innovation Expo
- Intellectual Property Clinic



GROW & SCALE

Ventures level up here! Become the hero of your market as you position your venture to quickly reach more customers successfully.

COURSES

- SE 361** | Emotional Intelligence Skills
- TE 450** | Startups: Incorporation, Funding, Contracts, & Intellectual Property
- TE 462** | Leading Sustainable Change
- TE 466** | High Tech Venture Marketing
- TE 498** | Organizing for Innovation
- TE 566** | Finance for Engineering Management
- TE 567** | Venture Funded Startups
- TE 565** | Technology, Innovation, & Strategy

GRAD CERTIFICATES

- Business Management for Engineers
- Strategic Technology Management

GRAD CONCENTRATION

- Innovation & Entrepreneurship

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

- Fiddler Innovation Fellowship
- Illinois Entrepreneur Hub at Siebel Center for Design
- Illinois I-Corps
- Illinois Innovation Award





Pitch your startup idea

SocialFuse

SocialFuse is a recurring pitching and networking event that brings students, faculty, and the community together from various majors and backgrounds. The event begins with a round of short pitching and idea sharing followed by informal networking. Attendees pitch their startup ideas, find teammates, improve pitching skills, and get feedback.



Network

Impact

- Held **4 times per year** across campus to encourage entrepreneurship-focused interactions among a wide variety of majors
- Students with skills and students with ideas can **form teams**
- **500+ students** attend each year
- Over **700 ideas** have been pitched since 2013



Find teammates

Silicon Valley Entrepreneurship Workshop

This annual, week-long workshop exposes students to technology entrepreneurship, innovation, and leadership and continues to build an entrepreneurial community at UIUC. The educational trek features interaction with corporate leaders, venture capitalists, and entrepreneurial alumni in various stages of a startup lifecycle that share lessons learned about entrepreneurship.

Talks and visits have included:

- Tom Siebel | **C3 AI**
- Esther Rasche | **Carta**
- Max Levchin | **Affirm**
- Sundari Mitra | **Intel Corporation**
- Shawn Carolan | **Menlo Ventures**
- Marcin Kleczynski | **Malwarebytes**
- KR Sridhar | **Bloom Energy**
- Ravi Thakkar | **Impossible Foods**
- Melonee Wise | **Fetch Robotics**
- **Google, Tesla,** and many more

Impact

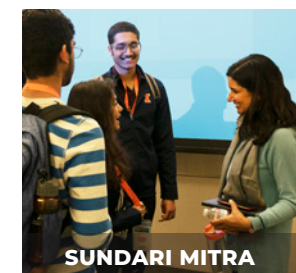
- **250+ students** have participated since the first workshop in 2009
- **100+ alumni** have participated in this unique engagement opportunity
- Students who attended previous workshops **are now hosting** current students at companies in Silicon Valley as alumni



MARCIN KLECZYNSKI



TOM SIEBEL



SUNDARI MITRA



MELONEE WISE



MAX LEVCHIN





Cozad STATS

\$2M+
HAS BEEN AWARDED IN
FUNDING & IN-KIND
PRIZES SINCE 2000

3000+
STUDENTS HAVE
PARTICIPATED
IN COZAD

88
MENTORS & JUDGES
WERE INVOLVED
IN 2022

11
COLLEGES ACROSS
CAMPUS ARE
REPRESENTED BY
COZAD PARTICIPANTS
IN A TYPICAL
YEAR

Cozad New Venture Challenge

The campus-wide Cozad New Venture Challenge, held annually since 2000, is designed to encourage students to create new businesses. This educational program provides mentoring and guides students through the phases of venture creation, teaching them how to best validate their startup ideas and learn critical entrepreneurship skills. In 2022, Cozad awarded more than \$250,000 in funding and in-kind prizes, thanks to generous sponsorship, alumni donations, and corporate partner support.



COZAD

NEW VENTURE
CHALLENGE

SINCE
2000

Success Stories



Ashley Moy, Co-founder

Cast21 | COZAD FINALIST 2016 | Founded in 2016, Cast21 is a medical device company that creates innovative healthcare solutions. Its first product, the Osteon Defender, is a lighter, hygienic, waterproof, and comfortable cast alternative to a traditional plastic and fiberglass cast. Cast21 has raised a total of \$2.4 million in funding.



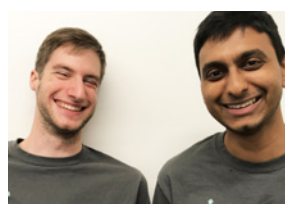
Danny Gardner, Founder

Mesh++ | 2ND PLACE WINNER 2017 | Bridging the digital divide, Mesh++ brings WiFi anywhere with solar-powered broadband nodes, bringing internet connectivity to rural and underserved communities. Mesh++ raised \$4.9 million in funding in 2021.



Bobby Reddy, Jr., Co-founder

Prenosis | 2ND PLACE WINNER 2014 | Prenosis is devoted to ushering in a new era of precision diagnostics in acute care using artificial intelligence that leverages holistic molecular and clinical data. The startup won a \$4.3 million contract from the U.S. Department of Defense to improve early sepsis identification and has raised a total of \$20 million in funding to date.



Sam Walder & Vishnu Indukuri, Co-founders

Trala | GRAND PRIZE WINNER 2017 | Founded in 2017, Trala is a tech-powered music app that teaches users how to play the violin and gives real-time feedback with its proprietary duplicative audio processing technology. Trala has been downloaded by more than 400,000 people from 193 countries. The company has raised a total of \$11.7 million in funding.



Alex Kosyakov, Co-founder

Natrion | GRAND PRIZE WINNER 2021 | Natrion is developing safe, high-performance, highly scalable solid-state battery technologies to introduce mass market-viable electric vehicles and renewable energy. The clean energy startup won \$35,000 in funding at Cozad in 2021. Natrion was also recently awarded, in partnership with Medgar Evers College, a \$200k Small Business Technology Transfer Research grant from the U.S. Navy's Naval Air Systems Command.

Illinois Innovation Award

University of Illinois Award for Excellence in Innovation or Translational Research

This award honors UIUC students for excellence in cutting-edge innovation or translational research that addresses real-world problems and has the potential to make a significant impact. The Grainger College of Engineering, through the Technology Entrepreneur Center, awards the \$20,000 Illinois Innovation Award.

Impact

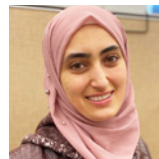
- 2022 marks **15 years** of celebrating student innovators
- **\$360,000** has been awarded to student innovators since 2007



Past Recipients



Guanhua Xun | 2022 Recipient
Guanhua, a graduate student in Bioengineering, is a member of the research group led by Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering professor Huimin Zhao. The research team has developed a rapid, Scalable, and Portable (SPOT) testing system for COVID-19 diagnosis. This affordable system comprises a saliva-based virus detection assay and a battery-powered portable device that can be used anywhere.



Maha Alafeef | 2021 Recipient
As a PhD candidate in Bioengineering, Maha developed an inexpensive yet highly accurate nucleic acid-based test for COVID-19 diagnosis with a sample to assay time of fewer than five minutes requiring no RNA isolation or nucleic acid amplification. RNA Disease Diagnostics, Inc., an early-stage biotech company, licensed this technology.



Ritu Raman | 2015 Recipient
As a PhD candidate in Mechanical Science and Engineering, Ritu focused on using 3D printing to manufacture biological building blocks which can harness the innate abilities of biological materials. Ritu is now the d'Arbeloff Career Development Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering at MIT. Her lab designs adaptive living materials, including engineering the neuromuscular system to restore mobility and power robots.

Fiddler Innovation Fellowship

Undergraduate Award for Excellence in Interdisciplinary Innovation

The Fiddler Innovation Fellowship (FIF) honors UIUC undergraduate students for excellence in addressing cultural, societal, or global challenges with innovative solutions that incorporate the interdisciplinary areas of creativity, art or design, and technology. The recipient receives an award of \$10,000. FIF is part of a \$2 million endowment from Jerry Fiddler and Melissa Alden to the University of Illinois to support the Emerging Digital Research and Education in Arts Media (eDream) institute based at the National Center for Supercomputing Applications (NCSA).

Impact

- **\$40,000** has been awarded to student innovators since 2019

FIDDLER INNOVATION FELLOWSHIP

Past Recipients



Gabe Tavas | 2022 Recipient
Gabe is a senior in Sustainable Design in the College of Fine and Applied Arts. He is the founder of Symmetry Wood, a biotech company focused on making wood without cutting down trees. Gabe has developed a wood alternative made from waste from kombucha brewing, using bacteria to produce cellulose which can be formed into a new and innovative alternative to wood for many commercial products.



Ariana Barreau | 2021 Recipient
Ariana is an MD candidate in the Carle Illinois College of Medicine and co-founder of ProteCKD. ProteCKD is a chronic kidney disease (CKD) pre-screening program that aims to reduce racial disparities in renal care and health expenditures in CKD care. Ariana is also co-founder of AxisMed, a healthcare innovation pre-incubator, designed to introduce students to vast innovation opportunities.



Ananya Cleetus | 2020 Recipient
Ananya has a bachelor's degree in Computer Science and is the founder of Anemone, a mental health crisis app. The app allows users to create a safe space on their phone with built-in crisis plan tools, emergency resources, coping skills, and a virtual grounding box.

International Student Entrepreneurship Workshop

The International Student Entrepreneurship Workshop helps international students understand policies and requirements for pursuing entrepreneurship and starting a business in the United States. An immigration attorney conducts this workshop, providing an overview of the latest immigration policies and answering questions about different visas, employment-based immigration, starting a company in the United States, and more.



Can I start a business in the U.S.?

I'm an entrepreneur & require immigration sponsorship. What are my options?

What about visa classifications?



Student Advisory Board

Student Advisory Board members help shape the thriving entrepreneurship ecosystem by providing their perspectives, feedback, and insights about TEC programs and events to the TEC staff. The Board meets biweekly to promote and foster conversation and broad engagement in the campus entrepreneurship ecosystem.



Entrepreneurship Advising

TEC helps students navigate campus and community entrepreneurship resources as they take their startup from idea to enterprise. TEC staff hold office hours to address questions and offer insights. Students can also participate in Office Hours with Experts to connect with entrepreneurship faculty, industry experts, mentors, and entrepreneurs.

Innovation, Leadership, & Engineering Entrepreneurship (ILEE) BS Dual Degree



Grainger Engineering students who want to develop an entrepreneurial mindset or are interested in technology startups can apply to the Innovation, Leadership, and Engineering Entrepreneurship (ILEE) degree. ILEE accelerates a student's understanding of the innovation ecosystem, the processes involved in identifying complex technical problems, and how to lead efforts to develop value-creating solutions effectively. The ILEE dual degree, a 31 credit hour second bachelor's degree, creates entrepreneurial-minded leaders in demand by startups and large companies alike.

Impact

- **Adds value to a student's primary engineering degree** by fostering entrepreneurial, innovation, and leadership skills
- Launched in Spring 2017 with **25 graduates** to date
- Courses are taught by **faculty from across campus**: Grainger Engineering, Gies Business, Art & Design, and others
- Strong emphasis on hands-on experiential learning with opportunities for students to **earn credit by working on their startup or other projects**



**INNOVATION
LEADERSHIP &
ENGINEERING
ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

Certificates

TEC offers four certificates—two for undergraduate and two for graduate students. To earn a certificate, students take specialized core classes and participate in a combination of elective courses or experiences within TEC and across campus.



INNOVATION

UNDER
GRAD

The Innovation Certificate is designed for students interested in delivering impact through innovative product design and transformative technical products and services. The courses and extracurricular activities for this certificate encourage students to become more innovative and generate novel ideas that have the potential to be breakthrough new products.



TECHNOLOGY COMMERCIALIZATION

UNDER
GRAD

With an emphasis on creativity and innovation, this certificate provides students with the knowledge base needed to explore various options for commercializing technology. This skill is increasingly important for engineers and scientists. The courses impart a general understanding of the technology commercialization landscape and how to apply that knowledge.



BUSINESS MANAGEMENT FOR ENGINEERS

GRAD

This graduate-level certificate is designed for students with an engineering or technology background who aspire to rise in management, make higher-level strategic business decisions, and hone leadership skills. It also provides the tools necessary to propose and manage initiatives and evaluate technology innovation. This certificate is for those who are or want to be entrepreneurial by starting a company, working for a startup, or bringing business management skills to their career at an existing company.



STRATEGIC TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT

GRAD

This graduate-level certificate is for students with an engineering background who aspire to lead a venture, make higher-level strategic technology and business decisions, and develop leadership skills. This certificate will help students understand how to incubate new ventures and participate in innovation and market adoption within corporate environments. Students in this certificate develop a new venture idea in TE 461: Technology Entrepreneurship. Those who are or want to be entrepreneurial by starting a company, working for a startup, or bringing strategic technology management skills into their career at an existing company should enroll in this certificate.



Courses

Whether students have a great startup idea, want to learn how to develop one, or want to accelerate their career, entrepreneurial thinking changes how they see the world and tackle problems. Here is a sample of TEC courses that teach students how to think like and become entrepreneurs and innovators.

- **TE 100/200** Introduction to Innovation, Leadership, & Engineering Entrepreneurship
- **TE 230** Design Thinking/Need Finding
- **TE 250** From Idea to Enterprise
- **TE 333** Creativity, Innovation, Vision
- **TE 461** Technology Entrepreneurship
- **TE 462** Leading Sustainable Change
- **TE 498** Organizing for Innovation
- **TE 565** Technology Innovation & Strategy
- **TE 566** Finance for Engineering Management

Innovation Scholars

As part of the Grainger Engineering First-Year Experience (GFX), Grainger Engineering undergraduates can apply to participate in the Innovation Scholars program. As Innovation Scholars, students learn about the important role of innovation and entrepreneurship in engineering. Students will develop their entrepreneurial mindset by identifying problems in the world around them, addressing them by creating value-driven innovations, and learning from and connecting with experts who have made an impact. Students will discover various resources available on campus and participate in experiential opportunities to shadow innovators, attend innovation-focused events, and develop their own pathway to innovative impact.

Graduate Concentration in Entrepreneurship & Innovation

The Entrepreneurship and Innovation Concentration will give graduate students the skills, resources, and experiences necessary to become successful innovators, entrepreneurs, and leaders in a variety of fields who can account for the technical and business facets of industry-relevant problems. Completion of this concentration is officially recognized on a student's transcript.





Campus Partners

TEC collaborates with partners of the thriving entrepreneurship ecosystem at UIUC to offer many opportunities to engage, scale, and build startups with global impact. **EnterpriseWorks, Siebel Center for Design, and iVenture Accelerator with Gies Business** are highlighted on the following pages.

Other partners include:

Office of Technology Management | Protecting, patenting, and licensing University intellectual property.

Origin Ventures Academy for Entrepreneurial Leadership (OVAEL) | Housed in the Gies College of Business, OVAEL offers entrepreneurial programs, services, and resources to faculty and students.

Illinois Ventures | Seed and early-stage technology investment firm supporting Illinois startups.

Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation | Leads the University's research strategy and supports creative thinking, innovation, entrepreneurship, and economic development.

Registered Student Organizations (RSOs) | Entrepreneurship RSOs like Founders: Illinois Entrepreneurs, Zero2One, AxisMED, EntreCORPS, and Enactus provide resources and events for student startups.



EnterpriseWorks Incubator

EnterpriseWorks is a technology business incubator that supports University of Illinois and community entrepreneurs in all stages of their startup journey. It offers labs, offices, community spaces, co-working spaces, programs, and more. Since opening in 2003, EnterpriseWorks

has launched over 250 startup companies and supported many more aspiring entrepreneurs. The incubator is owned and operated by Research Park.



NSF I-Corps at Illinois

The National Science Foundation Innovation Corps (NSF I-Corps) uses experiential education to help researchers gain valuable insight into entrepreneurship, starting a business, and industry requirements and challenges. TEC co-leads the NSF I-Corps Hub: Great Lakes Region with the University of Michigan, University of Minnesota, and Purdue University.

Illinois I-Corps programming consists of workshops encouraging teams to “get out of the lab” and engage with customers to validate their innovations’ market size, value propositions, and customer segments. Teams that participate in I-Corps become eligible for stipends and improve the odds for the commercial success of their venture. Several courses are offered throughout the Fall, Spring, and Summer semesters. TEC collaborates with Research Park, Office of Technology Management, and Illinois Ventures on Illinois I-Corps. **Find application information at icorps.illinois.edu.**



Learn about Illinois I-Corps *Success Stories*
icorps.illinois.edu/success-stories

Innovation Living-Learning Community (ILLC)



Created in 2010 through a collaborative partnership between TEC and University Housing, Innovation LLC provides students with an introduction to the campus entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystem. Students have access to onsite mentoring, workspace, and microgrants. The resources available help students develop their innovative ideas. Some examples include a system that solders without a soldering iron, an American-Indian fusion snack company, a Scrunchie Hijab product, and a deep learning-based application that predicts and prevents crop diseases.

Impact

- **The Garage** | Onsite maker space
- **Microgrants Program** | About \$2000 granted for student projects each year
- Over **1,400 students** have lived in Innovation LLC since it opened in 2010
- About **65%** of Innovation LLC students are Grainger Engineering students. **35%** are from other Colleges across campus.



Innovation Expo



Innovation Expo is a resource fair for students, faculty, entrepreneurs, designers, makers, and innovators. Exhibitors include student startups, entrepreneurship RSOs, maker spaces, campus resources, ecosystem partners, community partners, and more. These resources can help accelerate the development of startup ideas.



Siebel Center for Design

The Siebel Center for Design (SCD) is one component of a larger cross-campus, multidisciplinary effort to harness the potential of design thinking and design learning in teaching, research, and engagement. SCD offers students from all fields of study the opportunities and space to explore ideas and master skills through action—immersing, designing, making, and doing. It is also home to the Illinois Entrepreneur Hub, a coworking and networking space for student entrepreneurs, ecosystem partners, and entrepreneurship RSOs.

iVenture Accelerator

Launched in 2015, the iVenture Accelerator is a cross-campus program housed in Gies College of Business that provides opportunities for student-led startups to create economic and social value. iVenture supports student entrepreneurs with knowledge, funding, and access to the world-class University of Illinois resources and alumni. Origin Ventures Academy for Entrepreneurial Leadership, Illinois Ventures, Office of Technology Management, Research Park, Social Innovation at Illinois, and TEC collaborate with and support iVenture.



Impact

- Incubated **100 ventures** since inception and have featured **150+ alumni advisors**
- **270 student entrepreneurs** from 12 colleges and 44 fields of study

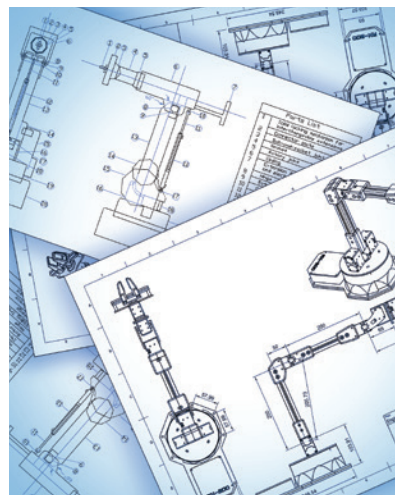


AWARE | Accelerating Women And underRepresented Entrepreneurs

AWARE (Accelerating Women And underRepresented Entrepreneurs) is run by the Technology Entrepreneur Center with support from EnterpriseWorks. AWARE offers resources and an enhanced infrastructure that makes the entrepreneurial ecosystem more accessible to all. AWARE offers resources such as a dedicated entrepreneur-in-residence familiar with the needs of those from underrepresented groups, small proof-of-concept grants for teams, and targeted mentorship, training, and networking opportunities.

Intellectual Property Clinic

The Intellectual Property Clinic is a joint effort between TEC and the College of Law with two tracks: the Patent Track and the Trademark Track. Selected participants from the Cozad New Venture Challenge, iVenture Accelerator, and the Illinois Innovation Award can have a patent application drafted for them at no cost, or can receive advice on trademark matters. Innovators work with third-year law students to give them the information needed to author the applications, under the supervision of Professor Joe Barich.



Impact

- **Over 200 companies** have been assisted with trademark registration
- The IP Clinic has contributed more than **\$1 million** in services, as patent applications typically cost **\$10,000-\$12,000** to have drafted, and trademark assistance costs **\$2,000-\$2,500**.

Grainger Engineering City Scholars & Startup City Scholars

City Scholars, which launched in 2018, leverages nationally renowned engineering talent to build Chicago's Tech pipeline. Students spend a semester in Chicago and work 20 hours per week as paid interns at Chicago's leading companies, taking courses toward graduation. UIUC provides online and in-person classes in Chicago, keeping students on track to graduate. Student cohorts participate in seminars with executives, experts, and civic leaders; site visits; cultural events; and other customized programming in entrepreneurship.

The Startup City Scholar track offers students an opportunity to join a startup team or build their own startup. Students participate in the College New Venture Challenge—a for-credit collaborative course between the University of Chicago and the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

ThinkChicago

Led by the City of Chicago's economic development organization (World Business Chicago), in partnership with the City of Chicago, the University of Illinois System, and the City Colleges of Chicago, ThinkChicago is a national STEM talent attraction and retention program for Chicago technology and innovation companies. ThinkChicago offers programs and events in collaboration with local universities and the tech community. Flagship programs include ThinkChicago Lollapalooza and ThinkChicago Ideas Week.



Midwest Engineering Entrepreneurship Network (MEEN)



MEEN supports the efforts of Midwest technology entrepreneurship centers through collaboration in educating, supporting, and connecting innovators to the ecosystem spanning the region. MEEN currently includes more than 30 institutions, with participating universities accounting for approximately \$16 billion in federal research funding. Annually, MEEN holds a conference to share best practices and methods for overcoming challenges unique to Midwest engineering entrepreneurship centers. MEEN was established in 2011 by the Technology Entrepreneur Center and the University of Michigan Center for Entrepreneurship.

Conferences have been hosted by:

Iowa State University, Northwestern University, Purdue University, University of Akron, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, University of Iowa, University of Michigan, University of Minnesota, and the University of Nebraska.



Entrepreneurial Living-Learning Community (ELLC) Roundtable



This program was created in 2012 by the Innovation Living-Learning Community and the Technology Entrepreneur Center at UIUC to give leaders of university entrepreneurship and innovation living-learning communities the opportunity to gather in one spot for shared discussion, learning best practices, and networking opportunities.

Conferences have been hosted by:

Georgia Institute of Technology, The Texas A&M University System, University of Florida, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, University of Utah, and University of Wisconsin—Madison.



Engineering Innovation Leadership Council (EILC)



EILC connects leaders in Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Colleges of Engineering across the nation to support, enhance, and advance innovation at research institutions.

The council organizes annual workshops for campus leaders focused on entrepreneurship and innovation to share best practices, discuss and inform one another on issues of emerging importance, help define the role of universities in the national innovation ecosystem, and gain a voice in shaping the national innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem.

EILC hosted its first NSF-funded workshop in Alexandria, Virginia, in February 2020. The council also hosted virtual workshops in 2021 and 2022. Attendees from nearly 300 academic institutions and government agencies participated in these workshops. EILC is open to College of Engineering Associate Deans/Vice Deans of Research, Associate Deans/Vice Deans of Innovation and/or Entrepreneurship, and University Innovation and/or Entrepreneurship Center Directors.



Sign up for our mailing list!

Get the latest news on entrepreneurial programs, academics, and events from the Technology Entrepreneur Center.



go.illinois.edu/TECsignup



About TEC

TEC equips students and faculty to develop an entrepreneurial mindset and create innovative startups with global impact by providing courses, programs, events, ecosystem resources, and opportunities.

Technology Entrepreneur Center

351 COORDINATED SCIENCE LAB
1308 W. MAIN ST. | URBANA, IL 61801
tec.illinois.edu



Grainger College
of Engineering

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

07/2022