



FOSTERING INNOVATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

Cozad New Venture Challenge

The Cozad New Venture Challenge is a premier entrepreneurship program at the U. of I., designed to nurture innovative business ventures and cultivate an entrepreneurial mindset among students.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Provides mentoring, funding and resources for idea validation and development.
- Open to students from disciplines across campus.



\$3.4M+

AWARDED TO STUDENT
STARTUPS SINCE 2000

4,000+

STUDENTS IMPACTED OVER
24 YEARS

235+

MENTORS & JUDGES
INVOLVED IN 2024

45

FIELDS OF STUDY
REPRESENTED IN 2024



Your support matters

Your engagement builds influential leaders and tomorrow's solutions. Join our community of dedicated alumni, partners, sponsors and stakeholders to make a difference.

OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED

MENTORSHIP

FEB. 16 - APR. 16

Guide students one-on-one
as they refine their concepts.

WORKSHOP COACHING

BI-WEEKLY, FEB. 12 - MAR. 26

Assist students in applying lessons
to their projects.

JUDGING

APR. 2: DEMO DAY

Inspire our promising
young innovators through
evaluation and sharing
your unique insights.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Contributions directly support
student startups so they can
continue their entrepreneurial
journey.

CONTACT

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EXISTING COZAD PRIZE FUND CONTRIBUTORS

Joe Beatty
Jaime Djuhar
Peter Fox
Chris Hartman
Joe Jablonski
Bill Jackson
Mark & Ruth Karasek
Marcin Kleczynski
Gayle & Rick Landyut
Rick Stephens
Mark Tebbe
John Thode
Adam Tilton
Craig & Sabrina Vodnik
Serra Ventures

EMPOWER THE FUTURE. INVEST IN STUDENT ENTREPRENEURS TODAY!

Cozad Prize Fund



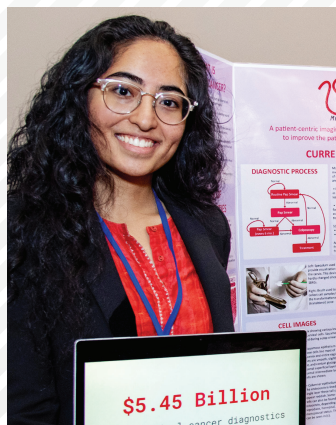
By contributing **\$5,000** to the **Cozad Prize Fund**, you are not simply donating—you are actively investing in the future of student entrepreneurs. The **Cozad Prize Fund** provides critical financial support to promising student-led startups, giving them the resources they need to turn their visionary ideas into real, impactful companies.

Your contribution will be part of an exclusive fund dedicated to nurturing innovation at the earliest stages. By donating, you'll help launch businesses that could shape industries, solve pressing global challenges, and fuel economic growth. These student founders have the talent, drive, and creativity, but what they need is access to seed funding and expert guidance—and that's where the **Cozad Prize Fund** makes all the difference.

WITH YOUR \$5,000 DONATION, YOU WILL:

- Provide direct funding to help students develop and scale their businesses.
- Play an active role in supporting entrepreneurship and innovation on campus.
- Connect with the inspiring entrepreneurs you're helping launch.
- Be recognized as a key member of the **Cozad Prize Fund** community, with exclusive updates on the progress and success of these companies.

Join us in building a legacy of innovation and entrepreneurship. ***Your support can be the pivotal factor that helps a student entrepreneur take their idea and turn it into real world impact.***



\$157.4M TOTAL FUNDS RAISED
IN THE PAST 10 YEARS
BY COZAD STARTUPS

A FEW COZAD STARTUPS & FUNDS RAISED TO DATE

Brius | \$26.7M

Back-of-the-teeth lingual braces.

Trala | \$19.5M

Tech-powered online music school.

Natrion | \$4M

Universal battery components that enable OEMs and manufacturers to make the leap to solid-state batteries quickly.

Amber Agriculture | \$3.3M

Smart grain bin monitoring.

PSYONIC | \$3.1M

World's first touch-sensing bionic hand.

Pathlit | \$1M

A no-code tool that enables the fastest deployment of AI solutions and automations.

Top Tier Lessons | \$525k

Sports lessons taught by college student athletes.

Haylon Technologies | \$120k

Using AI to dynamically switch between different types of battery cells based on a device's needs.

