The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign has a vibrant and rapidly evolving entrepreneurial ecosystem with deep connections to our alumni and partners across the state and the nation. The Technology Entrepreneur Center plays an important role, not only serving as the liaison to the College of Engineering but also providing academic support, programming, and other resources to the campus and beyond, including linking our campus ecosystem with the National Innovation Network through the NSF-funded MWIN I-Corps node. Students have many curricular and extracurricular 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. TEC offers over 15 courses, five certificates, and a new College of Engineering Bachelor’s Degree in Innovation, Leadership, and Engineering Entrepreneurship (ILEE). Whether students are interested in learning about commercializing technology, starting a company, or innovating within an existing organization, TEC courses and programs are a great way for them to take advantage of the tremendous opportunities that await within our entrepreneurship ecosystem and beyond.
Entrepreneurship Ecosystem at Illinois
CAN WORK FOR YOU

ENTREPRENEURSHIP DISCOVERY

- Entrepreneurship Courses, Certificates and ILEE BS Degree
- Entrepreneurship Treks
  - Silicon Valley Entrepreneurship Workshop
  - Chicago Entrepreneurship Workshop
  - ThinkChicago
- Innovation Living Learning Community (Innovation LLC)
- Technology Disclosure

COMPANY FUNDING

- AWARE (Accelerating Women And underRepresented Entrepreneurs)
- IllinoisVENTURES: Venture Capital Outreach
- Urbana-Champaign Angel Network (UCAN)
- SBIR and STTR Technical Assistance Program
- Share the Vision: Innovation and Startup Showcase

GROWTH & CUSTOMERS

- CEO Roundtable
- Chicago Innovation Exchange (CIE) and Illinois Partnership
- Entrepreneurs-in-Residence (EIR)
- Incubation at EnterpriseWorks
- Research Park Corporate Startup Intros

STARTUP IDEATION & VALIDATION

- Faculty Entrepreneurial Fellows (FEF)
- Illinois Innovation Prize (IIP)
- Intellectual Property Clinic
- Illinois Proof-of-Concept Program (I-POC)
- SocialFuse: Find Teammates

COMPANY & TEAM FORMATION

- Cozad New Venture Competition
- NSF I-Corps at Illinois
- I-Start Entrepreneur Assistance Program
- iVenture Accelerator
- Office of Technology Management Licensing

INNOVATION SPACES

- EnterpriseWorks
- Grainger IDEA Lab (Innovation, Discovery, Design, & Data Laboratory)
- Research Park
- Siebel Center for Design

LEARN MORE entrepreneurship.illinois.edu

- Academy for Entrepreneurial Leadership | business.illinois.edu/ael
- Entrepreneurship Forum | go.illinois.edu/eforum
- IllinoisVENTURES | illinoisventures.com
- Innovation LLC (TEC) | go.illinois.edu/innovationLLC
- iVenture Accelerator | iventure.illinois.edu
- Office of Technology Management | otm.illinois.edu
- Research Park | researchpark.illinois.edu
- Technology Entrepreneur Center (TEC) | tec.illinois.edu

These resources are managed by University of Illinois staff and are intended to primarily serve students, faculty, and staff of the Urbana-Champaign campus.
**SOCIALFUSE**

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

**Impact**
- Held 4 times per year across campus to encourage interactions among a wide variety of majors
- 16 SocialFuse events total have been held
- Students with skills and students with ideas can form teams
- 80+ teams pitch and nearly 800 students attend each year
- 320 students total have pitched
- 2,000 students total have attended
- Since 2013, many successful teams have been formed

**SILICON VALLEY ENTREPRENEURSHIP WORKSHOP**

The annual, week-long Silicon Valley Workshop exposes students to technology entrepreneurship, innovation, and leadership and continues to build an entrepreneurial community at Illinois.

This educational trek features corporate leaders, venture capitalists, and entrepreneurial alumni in various stages of a startup lifecycle that share lessons learned about entrepreneurship.

**Visits have included:**
- C3 IoT with Tom Siebel
- Yelp with Jeremy Stoppelman
- Affirm with Max Levchin
- Gigster with Roger Dickey
- Malwarebytes with Marcin Kleczynski
- Bloom Energy with KR Sridhar
- SalesforceIQ with Adam Evans
- NetSpeed Systems with Sundar Mitra
- BitTorrent with Eric Klinker
- Optimizely with Pete Koomen
- Fetch Robotics with Melonee Wise
- Vibrynt with Beverly Huss
- Vocareum with Sanjay Srivastava
- Andreessen Horowitz, Tesla, Palantir, Y Combinator, Square, Uber, Lightform, and many more

**Impact**
- First workshop held in 2009
- 25 students attend each year
- 200+ students have participated since inception
- 100+ alumni have participated in a presentation or panel discussion since inception
- Students who attended previous workshops are now hosting current students at companies in Silicon Valley as alumni
- Unique engagement opportunity for alumni
The Cozad New Venture Competition, held annually since 2000, is designed to encourage students to create new businesses. The competition provides mentoring to teams through the phases of venture creation; workshops on idea validation, pitching skills, and customer development; and courses to enhance their skills and knowledge. In 2017, more than $200k was awarded in funding and in-kind prizes. The awards are funded through corporate sponsorship, alumni donations, and campus partners.

**GRAND PRIZE AWARDS | STUDENT STARTUPS**

1st place: Trala
$15,000

2nd place: Mesh++
$10,000 IllinoisVENTURES convertible note + $500

3rd place: VRMD
$1,000

**GRAND PRIZE AWARDS | STUDENTS LEVERAGING CAMPUS RESOURCES**

1st place: Autonomic Energy Systems
$10,000 + $5,000 Energy Specific Venture Award

2nd place: Steady
$5,000

3rd place: PhantomCor
$1,000

In 2017:
- Approximately 1000 teams have competed in Cozad
- Awarded $1.3M+ to student entrepreneurs
- 125 teams competed in Cozad with 231 students participating
- 8 colleges represented across campus
- All 12 engineering departments represented
- 69 judges involved in Cozad
- 996 mentoring hours
- 7376 contact hours
- 57 alumni involved in Cozad

**Impact**

**CAST 21**
Innovative lattice structure cast which is washable and breathable, greatly improving the patient experience over traditional casts. They recently raised $800k in funding.

**AMBER AGRICULTURE**
Wireless sensor that monitors crops stored in grain bins. The sensor communicates important data directly to a smartphone app. They were recently awarded Best Startup by Engadget at the Consumer Electronics Show.

**RECONSTRUCT**
Quick and easy access to actionable and predictive construction performance analytics via already-existing images captured with drones or ground cameras and 3D building models. They recently raised $850k in funding.
ILLINOIS INNOVATION PRIZE

This prize is awarded annually to the most innovative student on campus. The winning student is a creative and passionate innovator, working with world-changing technology, entrepreneurially minded, and a role model for others.

Lucas Frye (2017 winner) is an MBA candidate, and co-founder and CEO of Amber Agriculture, a startup focused on automating grain management. Using wireless sensors and cloud analytics, their technology enables farmers to capture the highest possible price for their crops. Amber Agriculture won the 2016 Cozad New Venture Competition, has taken part in the iVenture Accelerator, and was named the Best Startup by Engadget at the 2017 Consumer Electronics Show.

Impact

- 2017 marks 10 years of celebrating student innovators
- $280,000 has been awarded to student innovators since 2007
- Canan Dagdeviren (2014 winner) won for her development of implants capable of gathering, storing, and converting the energy produced by the beating heart, the diaphragm, and lungs into electricity. She recently won Ten Outstanding Young Persons of the World (TOYP) by Junior Chamber International (JCI) in the Medical Innovation Category.
- Kevin Karsch, Brett Jones, & Raj Sodhi (2012 & 2013 winners) won for their individual work related to projected augmented reality. They all teamed up to create Lightform, the first computer made for projected augmented reality/projection mapping. To date, the company has raised $1.65M and recently launched their first product.
- Patrick Walsh (2008 winner) went on to found Greenlight Planet, which develops and manufactures honest, reliable solar products designed to help people living off the electric grid. The company has raised approximately $24M in funding. Greenlight Planet products are used in 5M+ off-grid homes with 18M+ daily users in over 50 countries.

FACULTY ENTREPRENEURIAL FELLOWS (FEF)

The FEF program seeks to combine the wealth of experience of our successful alumni with our most innovative faculty to create a unique environment for faculty and student entrepreneurship and truly redefine the role of the modern research university in the innovation and technology commercialization landscape in America. In the FEF program, faculty members with promising technologies focus their efforts on proving out the viability of their innovations entirely within the university ecosystem. With $50k, release from teaching and other obligations, an alumni advisory board, and a group of selected students, the team explores the commercial potential of the technology in a 12 month period. Additionally, a truly unique opportunity is created for students to participate, and earn credit for their part in the process. This program is funded through generous gifts from entrepreneurial alumni.

Impact

- Mani Golparvar and his Reconstruct team raised over $850,000 in venture capital funds in 2016
- Scott White’s students competed in and won the campus-wide Cozad New Venture Competition in 2017 with Autonomic Energy Systems
- Xiuling Li received an NSF AIR-TT proof of concept grant in 2017, receiving $250,000 in proof of concept funds
INNOVATION, LEADERSHIP & ENGINEERING ENTREPRENEURSHIP (ILEE) BS DEGREE

The new Innovation, Leadership, and Engineering Entrepreneurship (ILEE) degree in the College of Engineering isn’t just for students who want to create a startup—it helps create entrepreneurial-minded leaders which are in demand by large companies as well. The ILEE degree accelerates engineering students’ understanding of the innovation ecosystem and processes involved in identifying complex technical problems, and then leading efforts to developing value-creating solutions. This degree is currently offered as a dual degree to existing students in the College of Engineering.

Impact
- Adds value to primary engineering degree by adding entrepreneurial and leadership skills.
- Close cross-campus collaboration with courses taught by faculty from Engineering, Business, Art + Design, and others.
- Strong emphasis on hands-on experiential learning with opportunities for students to earn credit working on their own startup, or other extracurricular project.

TEC COURSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TE 100</td>
<td>Intro to Innovation, Leadership &amp; Engineering Entrepreneurship</td>
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<tr>
<td>TE 220</td>
<td>Design Thinking &amp; Need-Finding</td>
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<tr>
<td>TE 250</td>
<td>High Tech Ventures: From Idea to Enterprise</td>
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<tr>
<td>TE 298/598</td>
<td>Communications for Technology Innovators</td>
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<tr>
<td>TE 333/598</td>
<td>Creativity, Innovation &amp; Vision</td>
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<tr>
<td>TE 398</td>
<td>From Bootstrapping to Venture Capital: A Practical Guide to Funding Your Startup</td>
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<tr>
<td>TE 401</td>
<td>Developing Breakthrough Projects</td>
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<tr>
<td>TE 450</td>
<td>Startups: Inc., Fund, Contracts, IP</td>
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<tr>
<td>TE 460</td>
<td>Lectures in Engineering Entrepreneurship</td>
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<td>TE 466</td>
<td>High Tech Venture Marketing</td>
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<td>TE 498</td>
<td>Leading Sustainable Change</td>
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<td>TE 505</td>
<td>Technology Innovation &amp; Strategy</td>
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<td>TE 566</td>
<td>Finance for Engineering Management</td>
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<td>TE 567</td>
<td>Venture-Funded Startups</td>
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<tr>
<td>TE 598</td>
<td>Advancing Creativity</td>
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</tbody>
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CERTIFICATES

TEC offers five certificates—three for undergraduate students and two for graduate students. Each certificate requires students to take one or two core classes and a combination of elective courses or experiences within TEC and/or the University.

INNOVATION

The Innovation certificate program is designed for students whose interests and abilities are in entrepreneurship, innovative product design, and transformative technical products and services. The program consists of a set of courses that have been designed to encourage students to become more innovative and to generate ideas that have the potential to be breakthrough new products.

INNOVATION, LEADERSHIP, AND ENGINEERING ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Innovation, Leadership, and Engineering Entrepreneurship (ILEE) certificate program is designed for undergraduate non-engineering students. The ILEE certificate is for students who seek the skills necessary to grow, build, design, and lead innovative technology companies. The requirements consist of a combination of classroom and experiential aspects of innovation, leadership, and engineering entrepreneurship.

TECHNOLOGY COMMERCIALIZATION

Understanding the commercialization of technology is becoming increasingly critical for engineers and technologists. With an emphasis on creativity and innovation, this certificate program is designed to provide students with the knowledge base needed to explore the various options for commercializing technology.

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT FOR ENGINEERS

The Business Management for Engineers (BME) certificate is a graduate level program designed for students with an engineering or technology background who aspire to rise in management, make higher level strategic technology decisions, and hone leadership skills. This certificate program will provide students with the tools necessary in proposing and managing initiatives and evaluating technology innovation from a business standpoint.

STRATEGIC TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT

The Strategic Technology Management (STM) certificate program is designed for graduate level students with an engineering background who aspire to lead a venture, make higher level strategic technology business decisions, and develop leadership skills. From an innovation viewpoint, this certificate program will provide students with the understanding and the tools to incubate new ventures and participate in the process of innovation and market adoption within corporate environments.
NSF I-CORPS AT ILLINOIS

TEC leads the NSF I-Corps (National Science Foundation Innovation Corps) at Illinois programs and offers campus teams both Site and Node programs. The Site program offers four on-campus programs a year where teams receive $2,000 to cover travel and prototyping costs to facilitate customer discovery activities. The Node program focuses on delivering sector-specific programs (ag-tech, big data, life sciences) across the state and partners with the University of Michigan, Purdue University, and the University of Toledo to create economic impact across the Midwest. I-Corps at Illinois programming consists of workshops forcing teams to “get out of the lab” and engage with customers to validate the market size, value propositions, and customer segments of their innovations. TEC collaborates with Research Park, Office of Technology Management, and IllinoisVENTURES on I-Corps at Illinois.

INNOVATION LIVING-LEARNING COMMUNITY (LLC)

Created in 2010 through a collaborative partnership with University Housing, Innovation LLC provides students with an introduction to the entrepreneurial and innovation eco-system on campus. Students have extensive support for projects through on site mentoring, workspace, and microgrants. This has allowed student teams to begin developing everything from underwater robots, to improved body armor for police and military, to dolls that help young girls envision themselves in STEM roles.

Impact

- The Garage | On site workshop
- Microgrants Program | About $2000 granted for student projects each year
- Workspace Program | Teams are offered private work space each semester
- 4 teams + 24 hours + 1 big challenge = Extreme Entrepreneurial Lock-in
- How I Failed | Q&A series with entrepreneurs about learning from failures
- About 1,000 students have lived in Innovation LLC since it opened in 2010, with a 50% male/50% female ratio.
- About 65% of these students are in the College of Engineering. The rest are from departments across campus, including Liberal Arts & Sciences and College of Business.
Launched out of the Provost’s campus Entrepreneurship Roundtable in the summer of 2015, the iVenture Accelerator enables student-led startups to create economic and social value by supporting student entrepreneurs with knowledge, funding, and access to world-class University of Illinois resources and alumni.

The iVenture Accelerator is run by a cross-campus team of faculty, administration, and staff passionate about accelerating the growth of our student entrepreneurs. This team is made up of members from The Academy for Entrepreneurial Leadership, IllinoisVENTURES, Office of Technology Management, Research Park, Social Innovation at Illinois, and TEC.

The program is supported closely by the Colleges of Business, Engineering, Fine & Applied Arts, and School of Social Work. We work alongside University advancement offices to find ways for University of Illinois alumni and resources to engage and add value to our student entrepreneurs.

**Impact**
- $1.4+ million dollars in outside funding attracted to student ventures
- 150+ teammates
- 44 majors and minors represented
- 150+ advisors in the iVenture network

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Launched at Illinois, The AWARE (Accelerating Women And underRepresented Entrepreneurs) program is a collaboration among the College of Engineering, the Office of Technology Management, and the EnterpriseWorks incubator at the University of Illinois Research Park, and is funded by the National Science Foundation to support entrepreneurship training, counseling, and networking. 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. After a successful pilot at Illinois, there are now three other AWARE programs across the country.

**INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY CLINIC**

The Intellectual Property Clinic is a joint effort between TEC and the University of Illinois College of Law with two tracks: the Patent Track and the Trademark Track. Selected participants from the Cozad New Venture Competition, iVenture Accelerator, and Illinois Innovation Prize applicants can have a patent application drafted for them at no cost, or can receive advice on trademark matters. The value of this program is worth at least $10,000-$12,000 per patent application for each team. 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**
- 46 patent applications drafted since inception
- 30+ companies were assisted with trademark registration this year
- In its 10th year
ENTREPRENEURSHIP FORUM

The Offices of the Provost and the Vice Chancellor for Research annually hold a campus-wide Entrepreneurship Forum organized by the Provost’s Entrepreneurship Roundtable. This event highlights the breadth of entrepreneurial activities and resources across campus for faculty, students, and academic professionals. This day-long event allows attendees to participate in panel discussions, listen to keynote speakers who are prominent members of the University of Illinois community, and participate in the final rounds of the Cozad New Venture Competition and Illinois Innovation Prize. Attendees have had the opportunity to hear about various topics related to entrepreneurship such as funding opportunities, finding customers, IP strategies, and idea validation. Each year, the attendance is approximately 350-450 people throughout the day with more than 100 participants in the program.
Each year Mayor Rahm Emanuel, in partnership with World Business Chicago and the University of Illinois System, invites students to attend the ThinkChicago program. Students visit business headquarters, directly engage with entrepreneurs and leaders of some of today’s most innovative tech companies, and attend the Lollapalooza music festival or Chicago Ideas Week.

In 2017, the ThinkChicago Roadshow was launched, visiting campuses across the country. The Roadshow features panels with Chicago leaders discussing the city’s technology industry and business opportunities, and interactive sessions where students meet with Chicago’s leading business and civic leaders. At Illinois, more than 30 companies participated in the informal job fair portion and interacted with approximately 600 students.
ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK

This week-long program offers students the experience of living and working in Chicago. Made available through a partnership between TEC, Engineering Career Services, and Pritzker Group Venture Capital, Alternative Spring Break gives entrepreneurial engineering students an opportunity to be immersed in Chicago’s tech scene. Students experience a week as part of a venture-backed company and participate in company tours, tech talks, and work on projects. They meet entrepreneurs and leaders from the Chicago entrepreneurial ecosystem with multiple networking opportunities. The trip is ideal for students with future career plans as software engineers, data scientists, or UX designers with curiosity about joining a company that focuses on engineering and innovation. In its first year, 7 students participated, with 2 students receiving summer internship offers. The companies involved were Signal, Hyatt, SwipeSense, Options Away, eSpark, and Tock.

131 ALLIANCE

As Chicago and the Midwest continue to be recognized for its entrepreneurial ecosystem, two of its top universities have teamed to bring together and support students and faculty from both institutions in growing startups. The 131 Alliance connects faculty and students at top-ranked University of Chicago Booth School of Business with faculty and students from the University of Illinois College of Engineering, home to 15 top-ranked engineering degree programs. It fosters opportunities to connect and collaborate and offers participants access to resources on both campuses.
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CREATING INNOVATORS, ENTREPRENEURS, & LEADERS