ENTREPRENEURSHIP STARTS HERE.

Connecticut Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation

2018-2019 Annual Report
In this annual report, we are extraordinarily pleased to share with you details of the strides taken by the Connecticut Center for Entrepreneurship (CCEI) during the 2018-2019 academic year. Our center aims to serve the University of Connecticut and the citizens of the State by catalyzing interdisciplinary understanding of successful entrepreneurship and innovation through education, practice, and resources. Our programs target two primary markets: (a) student and faculty entrepreneurs, and (b) faculty scholars of entrepreneurship and innovation. Highlights from the past year are several. We launched a new program named “Get Seeded”, which engages aspiring student entrepreneurs through a five-minute concept pitch and the hopes of being awarded seed capital by judges and participating audience members. Our first cohort of InsurTech Fellows completed coursework and an embedded experience in startups. Details of our stalwart programs are also provided in the report. In 2018-2019, CCEI supported programs that provided over $500,000 in funding to support venture development. We supported over 100 new ideas/ventures and helped them earn over $1M in funding. Thank you for your support of our programs and initiatives.

Timothy B. Folta, Ph.D.
Faculty Director, CT Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation
Thomas John and Bette Wolff Endowed Chair in Strategic Entrepreneurship
Connecticut Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation

CCEI focuses our resources on high-impact ventures tackling fundamental problems. We inspire and support a robust entrepreneurial culture across academic disciplines throughout the University by offering programs that induce practical experience in entrepreneurship to prepare students and faculty to be more successful in their careers. CCEI focuses energy in four broad categories that serve the School of Business, the University of Connecticut, and our broader entrepreneurial and innovative ecosystem.

**Venture Support**
CCEI supports entrepreneurs and innovators across the University by providing funding, programs, and mentorship to help accelerate their business ideas.

**Entrepreneurship Education**
CCEI aims to grow the next generation of entrepreneurial leaders through rigorous academic and experiential programs.

**Connectivity**
CCEI fosters a diverse and collaborative community engaged in entrepreneurship and supports the ecosystem within the University and the state of Connecticut.

**Research**
CCEI propagates thought leadership in entrepreneurship and innovation.

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**MISSION**

**MEET OUR TEAM**

**Timothy B. Folta**  
Faculty Director and Professor of Management  
Thomas John and Bette Wolff Chair in Strategic Entrepreneurship  
Ph.D., Purdue University  
M.S., Purdue University  
B.A., Southern Methodist University

**Jennifer Murphy**  
Program Director  
M.Ed., Springfield College  
B.A., University of Connecticut

**Michelle Cote**  
Lead Instructor & Director of Strategic Partnerships  
M.B.A., University of Connecticut  
B.A., University of Connecticut

**Tammy Eldredge**  
Program Assistant  
B.A., University of Connecticut

**Chereace Marcellin**  
University Specialist & InsurTech Coordinator  
B.A., Quinnipiac University

**Michael Zacchea**  
Director of the Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans with Disabilities Program  
M.B.A., University of Connecticut  
M.A., Hawaii Pacific University  
B.A., University of Notre Dame

**Mehgan Williams**  
Program Assistant for the Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans with Disabilities Program  
B.A., Trinity College

**Alice Nichols**  
Accelerate UConn Adjunct Instructor  
M.Ed., Harvard University  
B.A., University of Colorado

**Scott Kozak**  
Biomedical Entrepreneurship Adjunct Instructor  
MBA, Kennesaw State University  
B.S., University of Connecticut

**Ken Goldstein**  
InsurTech Venturing Adjunct Instructor  
J.D., Western New England University  
B.A., Binghamton University

**Michael Kalen**  
InsurTech Venturing Adjunct Instructor  
MBA, Columbia Business School  
B.S., University of Delaware

Connecticut Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation
Accelerate UConn

The first cohort of Accelerate UConn was launched in Fall of 2015, and since then a total of nine cohorts have completed the program. Accelerate UConn is a program conducted in conjunction with the Office of Vice President for Research and the Connecticut Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, supported by an award from the National Science Foundation (NSF) I-Corps program. This year, in addition to the two cohort norm, we offered a third ‘short’ Accelerate UConn Program in partnership with the New England Innovation Node, to 16 teams. The program ran from July to the beginning of August and allowed for teams to try out the methodology taught in the Accelerate UConn program while only having to commit a few weeks and complete a total of 12 customer interviews each.

VENTURE SUPPORT

FALL 2018 COHORT:
Dr. Xiuling Lu, Sterling Glass, Derek Hargrove & Andre Beringhs
Nami Therapeutics: Doxorubicin Nanoparticles for Leukemic Stem Cell Inhibition
Dr. Dasha Frias Landa, Ardita Hinkle & Dr. Flavio Uribe
Tritain: Prevent the relapse of open bite using nonremovable retainer
Dr. Jason Henderson & Matthew Deluca
Green Agronomics: Turfgrass Weedbines
Michael Martin, Nick Myers, & Dr. Thomas Villalón
Phoenix Tailings: Using waste generated through production to develop a sustainable disposal process
Dr. Linda Pescatello, Yin Wu, Burak Cilhoroz & Robert Maybruch
Optimize: Decision support system for a guided approach to ExRx
Dr. Islam Mosa, Esraa Elsanadidy, & Dr. James Rusling
BioCap-Harvest: New power course or implantable pacemaker
Dr. Simona Augyte & Daniel Koval
New York Kelp: Kelp Development and processing: Locally and sustainable grown sea vegetables
Dr. Erik Wallace, Faith Sporbert, Thomas Crosby, Augusto Iversen, & John Bochicchio
Mystika: Software designed for improve safety and speed of all secure communications
Dr. Krystyna Gielo-Perczak & Alexandros Mathioudakis
Jointless Lower Extremity Exoskeleton

KEY FACTS

200
Over 200 hours of mentorship

39
39 teams participated in the Fall 2018, Spring 2019 and Summer 2019 cohorts

SPRING 2019 COHORT:
Dr. Arash Esmaili Zaghi, Alexandra Hain & Danielle Marzitelli
Arax Engineering: 3D imaging for bridge inspection
Dr. Mark Brand, Jonathan Mahoney, Dr. Elaine Choung-Hee Lee, Veronica Vallejo & Keiona Khen
Aroniomics: Aronia for commercial fruit production
Nikolas Franceschi-Hofmann, Elizabeth Perry & Dr. Yu Lei
Geyser Remediation: Remove PFAFs from drinking water
Joseph Rapisarda & Akash Balaji
FitTrek: data sharing application
Emily Yale, Anthony Mastrocola, Dr. Mei Wei & Kevin Waugh
Land Maverick: Soil sampling using robotics
Christian Heiden, Joseph Bonelli & Mark Meyering
Levo International: Hydroponic garden installation
Dr. Lawrence Silbart, Joseph Carbonaro, and Malu Foley
Therapeutic Bandage Systems: Bandage used to treat infections
Michael DaCosta, Brendan Mabey, Ankit Saini & Sandeep Saini
Transit2College: College application support
Dr. Amanda Zaleski, Dr. Beth Taylor & Dr. Robert Sanchez
SAMS-CI App: Mobile health application for patients and doctors
Get Seeded

Get Seeded is a new initiative at UConn that was developed to give students the opportunity to help move their ideas forward by providing them with seed funding and mentorship. Since the program launched in 2018, 5 pitch events were hosted, 38 teams pitched, and the program funded 23 ventures a total of $15,000. Students and teams will submit a short application to be considered to pitch. We also hope that students interested in entrepreneurship and innovation will attend the public pitches to help inspire them to create ideas of their own. This program is sponsored by the Connecticut Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation, the Werth Institute, School of Engineering, School of Nursing, School of Business, Management Department, Innovation Quest (IQ), UConn Libraries, First Year Programs, Learning Communities, Academic Achievement Center, Learning Community Innovation Zone and Graduate Business Programs.

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**Key Facts**

- 69 Applications Received
- 38 Team Pitched
- 8 Pitch Nights
- 28 Teams Funded
- 43 Majors
- 71% Male
- 29% Female

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High Value Talent Retreat

The High Value Talent Retreat is a day long training program that takes place in the fall and spring each year and includes seminars and workshops where participants explore product-market fit and a wider business model for their technologies. Faculty receive targeted training modules to help attract and retain high-value researchers and were encouraged to engage in Connecticut’s growing innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem. The goal of the initiative is to increase the number of successful ventures coming out of universities in the state; launch new products and/or business lines with corporate partners; attract investment and partnership deals for these startups and products; and improve the entrepreneurial ecosystems at these institutions to better attract and retain researchers.

“One thing I took away from the retreat is that as researchers we often get very excited about our own technological/research innovations and assume that people will immediately understand how it fills a need they have. I learned that in business ventures, you have to start by really understanding the needs of the people you think will be your potential customers. To do that, it is critically important to interview and really listen to a whole lot of people whom you think will be most interested in your innovation. What I found is that when we engage in that process, we often find that people we thought would find our innovation appealing actually have very different needs. But we can also walk away with more refined ideas for how to apply our innovation, practically communicate about it in a way that resonates with their needs, and which segments of the market will find our innovations useful and which will not.”

– Steve Stemier, Associate Professor of Psychology, Wesleyan University

This program is supported by the CTNext Higher-Education Grant, the Connecticut Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation, Office of the Vice President of Research at the University of Connecticut, Wesleyan University, Unilever, and Jackson Labs
Summer Fellowship

Summer Fellowship Program was created to leverage core competencies of UConn faculty and students, draw on the knowledge of community business leaders and stakeholders, and support entrepreneurs in the process of developing the infrastructure and partnerships needed to launch their businesses. The goal of the Summer Fellowship program is to help entrepreneurs move out of the conceptual stage of venture development, and into the marketplace.

KEY FACTS

50 Applications Received

37 Program Mentors

20 Teams Selected to Pitch

4 Faculty Led Companies

10 Startup Teams Selected to Participate

29 Participants

$150,000 in Startup Funding Provided

5 Schools/Colleges Represented
SUMMER FELLOWSHIP 2019 COHORT:

**Geyser Remediation**
Nikolas Franceschi-Hofmann, School of Engineering  
Brendan MacInyre, School of Engineering  
Elizabeth Perry, School of Business  
Gabrielle Conrad-Amlicke, School of Social Work  
Created a technology that can effectively break down the chemicals of PFAS and provide safer and cleaner drinking water.

**Green Agronomics**
Dr. Jason Henderson, College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources  
Amanda Clark, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
Designed a technology that provides pesticide-free weed control in turfgrass areas and pastures while mowing.

**Jubian**
Ray Li, School of Business  
A grocery delivery service that focuses on sourcing authentic ingredients from traditional ethnic food stores and delivering them directly to consumers.

**Land Maverick**
Emily Yale, School of Engineering  
Automates the process of soil sampling on large plots of land, such as golf courses, more accuracy and efficiency.

**Levo International**
Christian Heiden, College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources  
Developed a distributed system that leverages hydroponic farming techniques to combat hunger in developing countries.

**Nami Therapeutics**
Dr. Xiuling Lu, School of Pharmacy  
Derek Hargrove, School of Pharmacy  
Sterling Glass, School of Pharmacy  
Developed tumor-targeting nanotechnologies that gives late-stage cancer patients the chance to live longer and fuller lives.

**Phoenix Tailings**
Michael Martin, School of Engineering  
Nicholas Myers, Industry  
Developed a technology that uses hazardous waste material as a source for high valued metals, critical in the electronics, automotive, defense, and manufacturing industries.

**P3-EX**
Dr. Linda Pescatello, College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources  
Margaux Guidry, Industry  
George Panza, College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources  
Yin Wu, College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources  
Rachel Berkowsky, College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources  
Harry Korzenowski, Springfield College  
Theraputic Bandage Products  
Dr. Lawrence Silbart, College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources  
Colleen Ross, School of Engineering  
Jenna Marteka, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
Malu Foley, School of Business  
Advanced microneedle bandages that facilitate wound healing and treat specific infections by using modern approaches to drug delivery.

**Transit2College**
Ankit Saini, School of Engineering  
Brendan Mabey, Academic Center for Exploratory Students  
Michael Dacosta, School of Business  
Sandeep Saini, Industry  
A mobile application that connects students in need of tutoring with tutors on demand.
The Wolff New Venture Competition is an event held in the early fall that features the top five teams selected from the Summer Fellowship Program. The teams complete 10-minute presentations on the progress of their ventures. A panel of venture experts decides which team deserves the Wolff Prize and the $20,000 accompanying it. The Wolff Prize is endowed through the Thomas John and Bette Wolff Family Chair in Strategic Entrepreneurship, established to provide leadership for teaching and research in the field of strategic entrepreneurship. The Wolff family has a long tradition of personal philanthropy and commitment to the University of Connecticut and the entrepreneurs of tomorrow. We are grateful for the support of Thomas John (1928-2008) and Bette and their three children Greg, Gary, and Debi.

2018 WOLFF NEW VENTURE COMPETITION WINNER:
Congratulations to QRFertile lead by Reza Aminand Stephanie Knowlton, graduate students in the School of Engineering for winning the 2018 Wolff New Venture Competition. QRFertile is an at home, affordable and easy to use test for male fertility.

2018 FINALISTS:
Encapsulate: Armin Tahmasbi Rad, Ph.D. Candidate, School of Engineering & Leila Daneshmandi, Ph.D. Candidate, School of Engineering
A diagnosis device to determine personalized treatment for cancer.

MycoZap: Dr. Cindy Tian, Faculty, College of Agriculture, Health, & Natural Resources & Elizabeth Johnson, Graduate Student, College of Agriculture, Health, & Natural Resources
A plant-derived antimicrobial treatment for illness in cattle caused by microplasma bovis.

SAVKAR.AI: Dr. Amit Savkar, Faculty, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences and Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, Bill Moschella, Chairman, Savkar, Inc. & David Nichols, Ph.D. Candidate, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
A predictive analytics platform for student retention in STEM fields.

WellTech: Dr. Robert Aseltine, Faculty, UConn Health, Dr. Riddhi Doshi, Postdoctoral Fellow, UConn Health, Wenjie Wang, Graduate Student, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Madeleine Aseltine, Undergraduate Student, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, & Cal Collins, Industry Partner, CEO, OpenClinica
Tablet application to assist healthcare providers in collecting patient information to improve quality measurement.
EBV DIRECTOR’S STATEMENT:

I recently completed my term as the Chairmanship of the Advisory Committee on Veterans Business Affairs. In this position, I set the policy and legislative agenda for more than 2.5 million veteran-owned businesses, producing more than $1.1 trillion in GDP, and employing more than 8 million employees; and presenting the Committee’s advice to the Administrator and the President of the United States. The University of Connecticut and I remain committed to making the University a national leader for veteran entrepreneurship in 2019, and beyond. The measures we are taking now, are a reflection of the commitment of the University and its leadership.

Michael Zacchea
Director
Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans
ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION

Verge Consulting Group
The Verge Consulting Group was established in 2016 to assist Connecticut ventures on the verge of success by providing them with student consultants in collaboration with the Small Business Development Center (SBDC). Consultants work directly with SBDC clients on a variety of business functions, such as business model creation, financial modeling, competitive assessments, quantitative and qualitative analysis, product development and engineering, and market sizing and marketing plan development. Verge Consultants gain extensive consulting experience, and are awarded $5,000 for participation in the program. Graduate students from all disciplines are considered, although all of our previous program participants have been graduate students in the School of Business. This year, CCEI concluded the third cohort of the Verge Consulting Program, and over the last two cohorts applications outnumber available consulting roles by a ratio of 10:1.

KEY FACTS

| Team Applications Received | 42 | Small Businesses/Startups | 13 | Verge Consultants Selected | 5 | Week Program | 10 | Total Internship Funding | $25,000 |

STUDENT PARTICIPATION:
3 Full-Time MBA students, 1 Part-Time MBA student (Waterbury), and 1 MS BAPM student (Stamford)

“Our team of consultants, under the mentorship of seasoned Small Business Advisors, had an opportunity to interact with, learn from, and make recommendations to entrepreneurs working on innovative products in diverse fields such as Healthcare, Medical Devices, Wireless Charging, Transportation, and Real Estate.

As our team researched, collaborated, and made recommendations, I worked on market research, competitive analysis, market fit, business model generation, pricing strategies, google analytics, financial modeling, cash flow projections, business valuation, etc”

– Rahul Sinha, MBA, 2020

Entrepreneurship Life Science Initiative
CCEI sponsors a multi-disciplinary course in biomedical entrepreneurship, targeting graduate students and honors or advanced undergraduates from across the university with the purpose of training them to be life science entrepreneurs. This course offers a comprehensive overview of key elements involved in identifying clinical needs and key elements for commercialization of biomedical based R&D. Course starts with an overview of the current state of the biomedical field and explores major unmet global healthcare challenges. Fundamental concepts around various business models, protection of intellectual property, capital and financing, mathematical modeling of business valuation and transactions were discussed. Topics this year included: current state and key challenges of the industry, understanding the path of concept to market, technical and clinical validation, business options and structures, intellectual property, business plan, sales and distribution, regulatory processes, and manufacturing. The course ends with business plan presentations to an expert panel.

INSTRUCTOR TEAM:
Scott Kozak, CEO & Chairman, Rho Renewables
Timothy B. Folta, Ph.D., Professor, Thomas John and Bette Wolff Chair in Strategic Entrepreneurship, Faculty Director of the Connecticut Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation
InsurTech Initiative
Concurrent with the launch of the Hartford InsurTech Hub, CCEI partnered with the program operator, Startup bootcamp to pair UConn graduate students with participating companies for experiential learning opportunities. In the last academic year, that effort evolved in the development of a new InsurTech class, co-taught by a University of Hartford professor, and a former insurance executive turned insurtech entrepreneur hired as an adjunct by CCEI. With support from public and private funding, an InsurTech Fellows program was founded that continues to link students with growing InsurTechs in the city, and internship opportunities at anchor carriers.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES & OUTCOMES:
• Launch an inter-disciplinary, inter-university InsurTech Venturing course
• Create an InsurTech Fellows Program that focuses on experiential learning, mentorship with industry experts, access to networking events, and job opportunities
• Collaborate with the InsurTech community to participate in hackathons, networking events, presentations, and panels

16 Students Completed the InsurTech Venturing Course
11 Fellows Participated in the InsurTech Fellows Program
12 Mentor Relationships Built
4 Networking & Conference Events Attended
10 Supported InsurTech Startups
7 Full-time Job Placements
$44,000 Total Scholarship Funding Awarded

“From the actual foundation of the course, I think the collaboration between University of Hartford & UConn was unique and a great opportunity to utilize other networks, facilities, and kind of “cross channel” the students. I also think the group assignments were really important in creating the level of engagement and camaraderie that existed in the classroom and thus comfort level in diving into the group project at the end. The subject matter felt like a story, like we were a part of the evolution, learning about different types of insurance all the way through to creating financing and developing a company for that space. Outside speakers were key in switching up from a typical lecture session because we got to hear and see the results of our discussions through these professionals.”

– InsurTech Venturing Student

SPONSORED BY:
Launc[H]artford
launchinhartford.com

In July 2016, Michelle Cote, Instructor, and Director of Strategic Partnerships at the Connecticut Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation was appointed to lead the development of a strategy that would designate the City of Hartford and Town of East Hartford as an “Innovation Place” by CTNext, a division of Connecticut Innovations.

Over the last two years, Michelle has overseen the investment of over $8M in initiatives that are helping to create a visible and vibrant innovation ecosystem in Hartford. Some of those initiatives are providing significant new opportunities to CCEI and UConn students, faculty, and entrepreneurs, including:

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**HARTFORD INSURTECH HUB**

harrdinsurtechhub.com

Investing Partners: Aetna, Cigna, The Hartford, Travelers, USAA, White Mountains, Capgemini, Locke Lorde, Clyde & Company, LKP Global Law

A 15-week program held once a year (Feb-May), that draws over 500 applications from top technology firms around the globe per year. 10 are selected to receive assistance in developing a viable business model, one-on-one coaching from industry experts and experienced entrepreneurs, and networking assistance that helps them refine their value proposition, and apply their capabilities to relevant use cases needed by local industry.

**NOTABLE RESULTS**
- 7 of 20 participating entrepreneurs have established a presence/currently doing business in Hartford
- $2.2M – average raise by firms graduating from accelerator
- 22 new commercial partnerships or pilots formed between participating startups and local carriers

**NASSAU RE**

InsurTech Hub, leadership at Nassau RE decided to remodel and entire vacant floor of their boat building in downtown Hartford, transforming it into an incubator for Insurtech startups from around the globe. Nassau Re/Imagine currently has 11 companies residing in the space, and is quickly accumulating a wait list from other firms.

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**STANLEY ACCELERATOR**

www.techstars.com/programs/stanley-program/

Investing Partner: Stanley Black & Decker

Stanley Black and Decker launched its Additive Manufacturing Accelerator in Summer of 2018, and is currently running its second cohort of 10 companies from around the globe.

In partnership with Innovation Places, a thought leadership and speaker series, designed to engage local community members, and bring in expertise from around the world, has started in August 2018, and will continue through Summer 2020.

**DIGITAL HEALTH CT**

digitalhealthct.com

Investing Partners: Hartford HealthCare, Trinity College, UConn School of Business

With foundational support from Innovation Places, Hartford HealthCare has created a new Office of Innovation, and is launching a Digital HealthCT, a new accelerator focused exclusively on digital health technologies, in partnership with Trinity College and the UConn School of Business in November 2019. This program has drawn applications from over 300 digital health companies from around the globe. 10-12 will be selected for participation, and add substantially to the city’s growing innovation ecosystem.
xCITE Conference
xCITE is an initiative designed to inspire, connect, and support Connecticut’s women in the process of leading the next wave of innovation and entrepreneurship in our state. CCEI is the presenting sponsor for this event, and provides support in the planning and implementation of the conference.

This year’s xCITE conference took place in May 2019 at the Crown Plaza in Stamford where nearly 200 attendees gathered to engage in meaningful dialog about women and entrepreneurship.

TIP Internship Program
CCEI sponsors UConn students to intern with one of the over 40 startup companies in UConn’s Technology Incubation Program.

The Jackson Laboratory – Healthcare Forum
JAX Lab is an independent, nonprofit biomedical research institution that seeks to understand the human organism in all its biological and genomic complexity. CCEI sponsors the annual JAX Healthcare Forum and sends 20 undergraduate and graduate students to attend.

HackUConn
Hack UConn is a 24-hour event that brings together innovators and tech industry experts for a non-stop, fast-paced invention competition. In 2019, 113 students participated in 30 different teams.

Experience Innovation Expo
In 2018, the Werth Institute, along with participating members, launched the first Experience Innovation Expo, which is an opportunity for UConn students to discover the wide range of programs, resources, and activities facilitating entrepreneurship, innovation, and creativity at the university. It is an experiential venue where students will have hands on opportunities to explore what’s available to them.

School of Engineering Senior Design
School of Engineering Senior Design Project is a two-semester course required for all School of Engineering seniors to graduate. Each team of 3-5 seniors is mentored by Engineering faculty collaborating with the sponsor. Sponsors gain first-hand experience of teaming up with potential future employees to help the project succeed. The students learn how to work collaboratively in a real-world setting, while producing periodic reports on their ideas, strategy, techniques and progress. This year CCEI sponsored a senior design project for the company WickAway.

WickAway’s goal was to create a product that is easy to use, allowing a user to “set and forget” it without worrying about starting a candle fire. WickAway’s Smart Automatic Candle Extinguisher (SACE) prevents candle fires by using an automated timer to close the lid’s shutter. When the user-selected time runs out, the shutter will automatically close, cutting out the oxygen supply and subsequently extinguishing the candle flame. The shutter and glass are heat resistant to allow up to four continuous hours of burning time before asphyxiating the candle.

Throughout the project, The Team implemented final materials suitable for candle burning. They also made a number of changes to the product design in order to improve functionality, reliability, and aesthetics.

In addition to the selection of final materials, the team was tasked also with creating a manufacturing plan that encompasses a cost analysis as well as locating suppliers.

School of Nursing Athena Scholarship Day
Professional RNs, nursing students, faculty and researchers attend the annual ATHENA Research Conference at University of Connecticut Storrs campus. Topics range from stroke symptoms and response to NICU family support to clinical ethics and community-based participatory research.

Women Entrepreneurship Week
The center hosted an event during the 2018 Women Entrepreneurship Week which is internationally celebrated with more than 125 universities and colleges participating. The event hosted at UConn was called “Innovative Women: Perspectives on Entrepreneurship” and featured four panelists; Jasmine Alcantra, Founder, JLA Group, Jennifer Good, CEO, Trevi, Patty Meagher, Business Advisor, SBDC and Ashley Kalinauskas, CEO, Torigen.
Entrepreneurship and Innovation Research Seminar Series

Dr. Andy Wu, Assistant Professor, Harvard Business School, “Hatching the Platform Ecosystem: Mobilizing Complementors by Creating Social Foci”

Dr. Douglas Hannah, Assistant Professor, University of Texas at Austin, McCombs School of Business, “On Track But Off the Map: Founding Motivation, Lay Theory, and the Origin of the Ecosystem Strategy”

Dr. Rose Kim, Assistant Professor, University of Kentucky, Gatton College of Business and Economics, “The Influence of Venture Capital Syndicate Size on Venture Performance”

Dr. Raja Roy, Assistant Professor, New Jersey Institute of Technology, Martin Tuchman School of Management, "Firm Experimentation in the Conceptualization Period of a Complex System: Resolution of Technological Bottlenecks in the Genesis of the Space Shuttle”

Dr. Sharon Belenzon, Associate Professor, Duke University, The Fuqua School of Business “Towards a Legal Theory on the Firm: The Effects of Enterprise Liability of Asset Partitioning, Decentralization, and Corporate Group Growth”

Dr. Janet Bercovitz, Professor, University of Colorado Boulder, Leeds School of Business “When One Door Closes, Another Opens... for Some: Evidence from the Post-TRIPS Indian Pharmaceutical Industry”

Dr. Rahul Kapoor, Associate Professor, University of Pennsylvania, Wharton School of Business, “Two Faces of Value Creation in Business Ecosystems: Leveraging Complementarities and Managing Interdependencies”

Dr. PK Toh, Associate Professor, University of Texas at Austin, McCombs School of Business, “The Joint Roles of Complimentary Components and Coordination via Standard Setting on Firm Value within Ecosystems”

Faculty Research Grants

With the aim of helping develop the next generation of entrepreneurship educators, we fund faculty to attend research conferences, gather data, and attend teaching workshops. The following four faculty were funded by CCEI to attend the Price-Babson Symposium for Entrepreneurship Educators in Massachusetts.

Michelle Cote, Instructor in-Residence, Connecticut Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation, School of Business

Mary Caravella, Associate Professor in-Residence, Marketing Department, School of Business
FINANCIALS

Income to support entrepreneurship and innovation through CCEI is provided through the State (through Senate Bill #702), grants, donations, sponsorships, and in-kind support.

BUDGET ALLOCATIONS FOR 2018-2019

$1,659,495

- Administrative – $195,027
- Capital Expenses* – $288,146
- Connectivity – $216,550
- Entrepreneurship Education – $271,751
- Research – $153,658
- Venture Support – $534,363

*In FY 19 CCEI funded a major renovation to construct the new center space in the Graduate Business Learning Center in Hartford.