



ENTREPRENEURSHIP. STARTS. HERE.

Connecticut Center for
Entrepreneurship & Innovation

2018-2019 Annual Report

LETTER FROM THE ACADEMIC DIRECTOR



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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Tim B Folta".

Timothy B. Folta, Ph.D.

*Faculty Director, CT Center for
Entrepreneurship and Innovation*
Thomas John and Bette Wolff Endowed
Chair in Strategic Entrepreneurship

MISSION

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 the Connecticut.

Research

CCEI propagates thought leadership in entrepreneurship and innovation.



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
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



VENTURE SUPPORT



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.

KEY FACTS

200

Over 200 hours of mentorship

39

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

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 Weedbine

Michael Martin, Nick Myers, & Dr. Thomas Villalon

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 source for implantable pacemaker

Dr. Simona Augyte & Daniel Koval

New York Kelp: Kelp Development and processing: Locally and sustainable grown sea vegetables

Dr. Erik Wallace, Faith Sporbett, 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

SPRING 2019 COHORT:

Dr. Arash Esmaili Zaghi, Alexandra Hain & Danielle Marzittel

Arax Engineering: 3D imaging for bridge inspection

Dr. Mark Brand, Jonathan Mahoney, Dr. Elaine Choung-Hee Lee, Veronica Vallejo & Keiona Khen

Aronomics: Aronia for commercial fruit production

Nikolas Franceschi-Hofmann, Elizabeth Perry & Dr. Yu Lei

Geyser Remediation: Remove PFAs 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

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.

KEY FACTS

69 Applications Received

38 Team Pitched

8 Pitch Nights

28 Teams Funded

43 Majors

71% Male

29% Female



**HIGH
VALUE**
TALENT RETREAT

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



VENTURE SUPPORT



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



EXPERIENCE THAT COUNTS
ASSURANCE · TAX · ADVISORY SERVICES



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.

Geyser Remediation



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

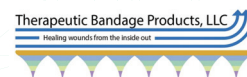
Margaux Guidry, Industry
George Panza, College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources
Yin Wu, College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources
Rachel Berkowsky, College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources
Harry Korzenowski, Springfield College



Therapeutic 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.



VENTURE SUPPORT

Wolff New Venture Competition

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 Amin and 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 Colins, Industry Partner, CEO, OpenClinica

Tablet application to assist healthcare providers in collecting patient information to improve quality measurement.



Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans



The Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans (EBV) is a first-of-its-kind initiative that turns veterans into entrepreneurs! The EBV program leverages the skills, resources and infrastructure of higher education to offer cutting-edge, experiential training in entrepreneurship and small business management to post-9/11 veterans.

The EBV opens the door to economic opportunity for veterans by developing their competencies in the many steps and activities associated with creating and sustaining an entrepreneurial venture.

As we celebrate the 10th year of the EBV, it is humbling to reflect on the 166 businesses that have been started by the 198 veterans who have gone through the program. More than 400 jobs have been created and employ more than 200 veterans and have generated more than \$145 million in gross revenues. In addition, 22 veterans have completed a college degree or a professional licensing or credentialing program. Plus, 87 veterans have received over \$190,000 in grants and awards to start their businesses.

Each veteran admitted to the program has had an exemplary military career. The class of 2018-2019 included five veterans awarded six Bronze Stars for valor and two veterans awarded the Purple Heart.

CLASS OF 2018-2019 HIGHLIGHTS

21

21 veterans graduated from the 2018-2019 cohort, 19 veterans and 2 caregivers

10

Program participants came from 10 different states

13

13 started businesses and 2 found full-time employment



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

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

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

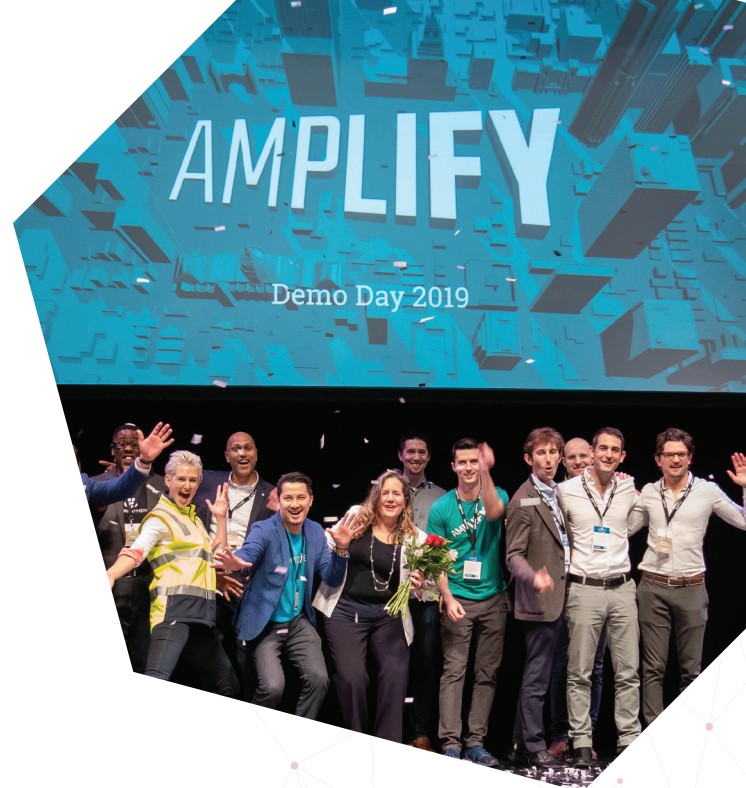
12 Mentor Relationships Built

4 Networking & Conference Events Attended

10 Supported InsurTech Startups

7 Full-time Job Placements

\$44,000 Total Scholarship Funding Awarded



Demo Day 2019

"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:



UConn

CONNECTICUT CENTER
FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP
AND INNOVATION

**UNIVERSITY
OF HARTFORD**

BARNEY SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

**HARTFORD
INSURTECH HUB**

POWERED BY **Startupbootcamp**

CONNECTIVITY

LAUNCH[H]ARTFORD

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:

HARTFORD INSURTECH HUB

hartfordinsurtechhub.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-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.

imagine.nsre.com

Investing Partner: Nassau RE

Through consistent dialogue with the Innovation Places program, and tracking the success of the Hartford

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.

Sponsored Programs



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

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.



RESEARCH



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

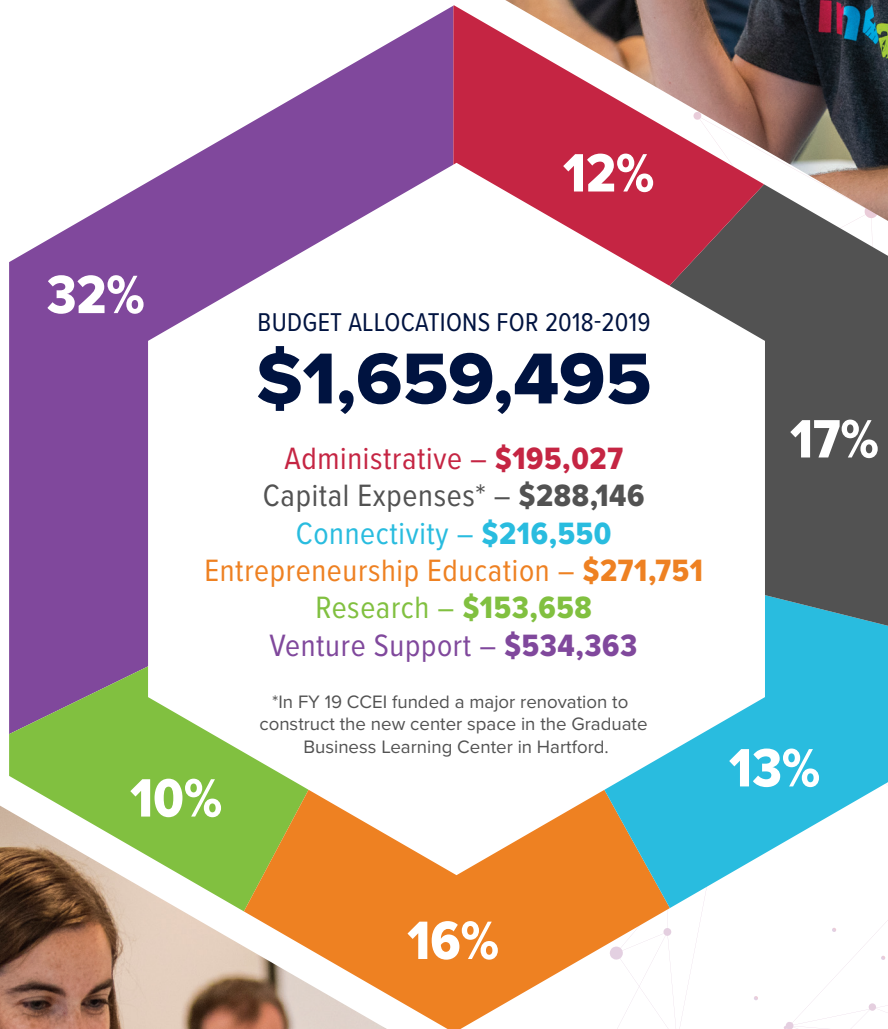
With the aim of helping develop the next generation of entrepreneurship educators, we fund faculty to attend research conferences, gather data, and attend teaching workshops. The following four faculty were funded by CCEI to attend the Price-Babson Symposium for Entrepreneurship Educators in Massachusetts.

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.





UConn

CONNECTICUT CENTER
FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP
AND INNOVATION