MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP & OUTREACH

Entrepreneurship Center Operating Policy

DATE: May 1, 2018

POLICY: ECOP 9.0 – Non-Disclosure Agreements & Confidentiality

Purpose

At the MSU Center for Entrepreneurship & Outreach (E-Center), we work with current and aspiring entrepreneurs on hundreds of ideas each year. Often the question of confidentiality arises or we receive a request to sign a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA). This document establishes a standard policy for treatment of startup ideas and other information to the E-Center.

Policy

1. In general, the Center for Entrepreneurship & Outreach (E-Center) **will not** execute non-disclosure agreements with individuals or entities seeking business guidance.
2. Contents of one-on-one meetings, forms or information collected by other mechanisms are handled as confidential and submissions are property of the person(s) remitting, subject to IP restrictions defined in MSU OP 76.01.
3. We may on occasion direct funds or resources to startup companies; however, the E-Center is a non-profit organization focused on helping its participants turn ideas into reality, not enrichment of personnel or stakeholders.
4. This policy aligns with what most investors and venture capitalist firms follow. It is impossible to accept such agreements as our team will often hear similar ideas over time. We would be unable to function if we entered into NDAs for every idea heard.
5. While we make reasonable effort to protect information shared with our team, participants or clients of our program agree to hold harmless Mississippi State University and its employees.

Approval

This policy was recommended to the Entrepreneurship Center Advisory Board (ECAB) and approved by a quorum in accordance with the operating procedures of the Center for Entrepreneurship and Outreach.

Eric Alan Hill — Date: 01 MAY 2019
Director, Center for Entrepreneurship and Outreach

Dr. Sharon L. Oswald — Date: 5-1-19
Dean of the College of Business

Board Member — Date: 5-6-19
Entrepreneurship Center Advisory Board