MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP & OUTREACH

CEO Operating Policy

DATE: May 1, 2018

SUBJECT: V9 – Non-Disclosure Agreements & Confidentiality

Purpose

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

Policy

1. In general, the Center for Entrepreneurship & Outreach (CEO) 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 CEO is a non-profit organization focused on helping its participants turn ideas into reality, not deriving gain or financial benefit.
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, entrepreneurs agree to hold harmless Mississippi State University and its employees.

Approval

This policy was presented to a quorum of the Entrepreneurship Center Advisory Board (ECAB) and approved in accordance with the operating procedures of the Thad Cochran Endowment for Entrepreneurship (TCEE).

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E-Center Advisory Board Member Date

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Eric Alan Hill Dir, Ctr for Entrep. & Outreach Date

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Dr. Sharon L. Oswald, Dean, College of Business Date