MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP & OUTREACH

External Partners

Opportunities to Support the E-Center

Our programs thrive because of the support of partners from our alumni network and other university friends. We would love to have you as part of our extended family and team! **This list is to provide you a menu of opportunities for getting involved in the E-Center's activities.**

How You Can Help Entrepreneurs

1. **SPEAK TO A CLASS**
    a. *GE3011 – Jack Hatcher Entrepreneurship Seminar*
    Join us as a guest speaker in the esteemed Jack Hatcher Entrepreneurship Seminar, a lecture series spanning nearly two decades of successful entrepreneurs.
2. **MENTOR STUDENT TEAMS**
    a. *One-on-One Mentorship*
    Each student team in our VentureCatalyst program is paired with a mentor based on skills, background, and interest. One-on-one mentors work deeply with a few teams.
    b. *Office Hours*
    Rather than working with closely with a few teams, some mentors prefer to stay as a light advisor to many teams by holding office hours, making themselves available in person or via video chat to teams a few hours per month.
3. **EVALUATE PITCHES AND REVIEW TEAMS**
    a. *Advisory Board Member (ECAB)*
    Our E-Center Advisory Board hears 3-5 pitches each month from student teams and makes the funding decision on awarding money from our Startup Grant Fund.
    b. *Investment Review Council Member (IRC)*
    The Investment Review Council is an essential group that helps us ensure a startup company is adequately prepared to raise money. Quarterly the IRC receives an early package from student startups and reviews their plan, projections, and preparedness.
4. **INVEST IN STUDENT & FACULTY COMPANIES**
    a. *Bulldog Angel Network (BAN)*
    The Bulldog Angel Network is a private group who invest in early-stage companies that are majority owned by MSU students, faculty or alumni, investing around $1M/year.
    b. *North Mississippi Angel Fund*
    Some investors prefer to be more hands off, and the North Mississippi Angel Fund is a private, managed investment fund also investing in early-stage companies.
5. **MAKE A GIFT**
    The E-Center distributes more than $100,000 per year in equity-free startup grants, competition prizes, student internships, and other student support funded entirely by a small endowment and private contributions. Your support can fund the dream and spark of a new idea!

How We Can Help You

1. **MBA RESEARCH PROJECTS**
   Let us assign a team of MBA students who work as consultants for your business for an entire semester to work to help solve your most important business questions. You give the team their marching orders and they will conduct more than 100 hours of intensive business research. At the end of the semester, they will formally present their findings to you.
2. **THE FLIPPED PITCH**
   Does your business have a problem outside of its core mission, but represents a huge headache for you? Pitch your idea to some of MSU's brightest young students to take the idea and run with it, and help them take the product to market. Think of it as your very own "Venture" arm, guided by MSU.
3. **WORKSPACE**
   Need workspace while you're in Starkville? Work out of one of our three locations – on MSU's main campus, the Idea Shop downtown, or the Incubator in the research park. With high-speed internet, comfortable appointments, and more amenities, give our team the opportunity to pull out the Bulldog welcome mat for you! Call our office ahead of your arrival and we'll arrange premium parking for you.
4. **PROTOTYPING ASSISTANCE**
   Sometimes, the hardest step is going from zero to one with bringing an idea to reality. The MSU Idea Shop contains a myriad of wood, polymer, and metal prototyping equipment, as well as an electronics workbench and design suite. Our student team – many studying engineering – can assist with many types of prototyping needs, from helping with CAD work, running jobs, or iterating designs.
5. **CONTRACT RESEARCH PROJECTS**
   Does your company have research needs but not sure where to start? Let our team help serve as your guide within the university and find the best potential MSU researchers to help you with your project.