TECHNOLOGY ENTREPRENEUR CENTER

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TEC provides students and faculty with the skills, resources and experiences necessary to become successful innovators, entrepreneurs and leaders who tackle grand challenges and change the world. Students from across campus participate in TEC’s programs, competitions, trips and workshops.

OUR SIGNATURE PROGRAM: THE COZAD NEW VENTURE COMPETITION

$200,000+

More than $200,000 in funding and in-kind prizes awarded to startups via Cozad in 2016.

WHY COMPETE?

- Meet other students passionate about entrepreneurship
- Gain mentoring from prominent alumni and entrepreneurs
- Attend several workshops and learn to push your ventures forward
- Learn to pitch your startup to future investors

SILICON VALLEY WORKSHOP

A select group of students attend TEC’s technology entrepreneurship workshop in Silicon Valley. Students visit startups and network with prominent alumni from successful companies like Yelp, BitTorrent and C3 Energy.

ILLINOIS INNOVATION PRIZE

Awarded annually to the most innovative student on campus. Previous winners have gone on to create successful businesses that affect the lives of millions.

SOCIALFUSE

A pitching and networking event that brings together students from diverse majors and fuses them through skills, ideas and entrepreneurial ambition. Students can pitch their startup ideas, find teammates, gain practice and receive feedback.

INNOVATION LLC

Students interested in innovation and entrepreneurship are selected to live in this Living-Learning Community. They have access to on-site classes, exclusive events and 24-hour access to The Garage, a private collaborative space.
TEC ACADEMICS

The University of Illinois has a vibrant and rapidly evolving entrepreneurial ecosystem, which includes the academic support and resources within Technology Entrepreneur Center (TEC). Students have many opportunities to academically engage in entrepreneurship to further develop, build, and hone their skill sets, as well as network with peers, instructors, and guest lecturers. TEC offers over 15 courses, 5 certificates, and a new College of Engineering (COE) Bachelor’s Degree in Innovation, Leadership, and Engineering Entrepreneurship (BS in ILEE). Whether students are interested in commercializing technology, starting a company (entrepreneurship), or innovating within a larger existing company (intrapreneurship), TEC courses are a way to develop desired skills to become successful.

COURSES

TEC courses are intended for students who want to understand the business issues in engineering, as well as how new technology-based businesses are created and managed. Course topics range from an overview of the entrepreneurial process to a more narrowed focus on a particular topic, such as idea creation, team building, legal, or marketing. If you are interested in engineering entrepreneurship, commercializing technology, or starting a company, please check the TEC website for current course listings.

CERTIFICATES

By taking a variety of the entrepreneurial courses offered through TEC, students can obtain a certificate. By earning a TEC certificate, students gain the skills and resources necessary to become a successful innovator, entrepreneur, and leader in a more specific area.

Undergraduate Certificates
- Innovation
- Innovation, Leadership & Engineering Entrepreneurship
- Technology Commercialization

Graduate Certificates
- Business Management for Engineers
- Strategic Technology Management

BACHELOR’S DEGREE IN INNOVATION, LEADERSHIP & ENGINEERING ENTREPRENEURSHIP (ILEE)

Coming Soon in Spring 2017! The BS degree in Innovation, Leadership, and Engineering Entrepreneurship (BS in ILEE) program is intended for engineering students to better understand the innovative processes involved in identifying complex technical problems and creating, developing, and leading efforts to provide for their engineering solutions. A unique aspect of this degree is the inclusion of project-based experiential credits, whereby students must earn four but no greater than 16 credit hours of experiential learning. This is credit that is approved, supervised, and coordinated by an Illinois faculty member. At this time, the BS degree in ILEE is only available as a dual degree for COE students.

Questions? Contact Brooke Newell at bsnwell@illinois.edu