

THE INSTITUTE FOR INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP AT UT DALLAS

The Institute for Innovation & Entrepreneurship at UTD was established in April 2006 as a collaborative initiative of the schools of Arts and Humanities; Behavioral and Brain Sciences; Economic, Political and Policy Sciences; Engineering and Computer Science; Management; and Natural Sciences and Mathematics. The Institute’s role is that of a facilitator, catalyst and program sponsor – *leveraging the power of ideas and technology to create new ventures and add economic, social and cultural value to our community.*

The Institute plays a major role in promoting cross-disciplinary academic and outreach programs across the university, including cross-listed courses, joint degree programs and broad-based community outreach initiatives involving each of the schools of the university. The Institute’s initiatives include:

- **Academic and Student Programs:** academic curricula for graduate and undergraduate students and student programs, including the Entrepreneurship Club@UT Dallas, the annual UT Dallas Business Idea Competition, and the annual Computer Gaming Entrepreneurship Competition designed to raise awareness and foster and encourage an entrepreneurial mindset among students.
- **Faculty/Staff Development Programs:** including the Commercialization & Entrepreneurship Boot Camp, targeted at faculty, staff and graduate students and designed to stimulate interest in entrepreneurship and support the commercialization of UT Dallas technologies.
- **Venture Development Program:** an “incubator without walls,” supporting the commercialization of technologies developed within or in partnership with the university. Venture Development’s faculty and MBA student interns provide resources, counseling, connections and opportunities, facilitating the transition from idea to market and enhancing the likelihood of new venture success.
- **Community Outreach:** a variety of programs targeted at entrepreneurs and the general public, including the Entrepreneurial Development Series, the Research and New Venture Showcase Series, and the UTD Innovation Opportunity Camp for high school students.
- **Research:** world class research that extends our understanding of the theory and practice of innovation, commercial entrepreneurship and the processes of creative thinking.

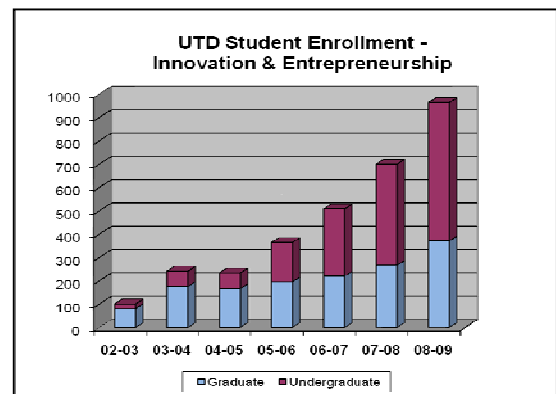
2008 TECH TITANS AWARD

The Institute was recently honored as the winner of the 2008 Tech Titan award in the technology advocate category. The award recognizes outstanding leadership in the D/FW technology community through assisting, enabling or accelerating the performance of technology companies or organizations.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

We are pleased with the Institute’s progress and accomplishments during its first three years of operations.

Academic Programs. By almost any measure, UT Dallas has built the finest academic program in innovation and entrepreneurship in the region. Over the past seven years, our academic program has grown to nearly a thousand students enrolled in 13 graduate and 3 undergraduate courses, supported by seven full-time School of Management faculty. Concentrations are offered in the BA, MS and MBA programs, and a minor is available to all undergraduates. A new course in Social Entrepreneurship was introduced in Summer 2009; a course in Industry and Technology Forecasting will be added in Spring



2010.

In 2008-2009, total enrollments in courses in innovation and entrepreneurship increased by 38% over the prior year. Three new faculty have been added to accommodate an anticipated increase in 2009-2010 enrollments to nearly 1200 students. Despite the growth, we have maintained a program of the highest quality, with student course evaluations consistently well above the university average.

Student Programs. The Institute sponsors an active Entrepreneurship Club, with over 150 members and a full calendar of events. Annually, the club provides student mentors and counselors for the Dallas Rotary Club's Camp Enterprise for high school students.

In November 2008, we held the second annual UTD Business Idea Competition. More than 35 student teams competed for \$30,000 in cash prizes, with 24 semifinalists presenting their business ideas to teams of outside judges on November 21st. The winners of the undergraduate competition have launched their business; the graduate winners competed in ten national business plan competitions in Spring 2009, winning one and finishing in the top 5 in several others. The on-campus lectures by successful entrepreneurs in the Entrepreneurial Exchange Series have been well-attended by students and faculty from across the campus.

Faculty/Staff Development initiatives have been well received and our visibility is increasing. The nine Commercialization & Entrepreneurship Boot Camps presented to date have averaged more than 90 UTD, UTSW and UTA faculty and graduate students in attendance at each. UT San Antonio has adopted our model and successfully presented its first Boot Camp in March 2007. Our May 2007 Boot Camp was professionally-produced in a DVD format for the Institute and for statewide use by the Texas ETF.

Venture Development. Currently, we have six companies enrolled in our venture development program, with plans to open an incubation facility in 2010. We are actively mentoring these companies and have assisted them in securing more than \$6.0 million in funding for their programs.

Community Outreach programs are continuing to grow and expand. Our Research and New Venture Showcases highlight UTD's cutting edge research and technology programs, including programs on Nanotechnology; Virtual Worlds, Simulation and Game Technologies; Cyber Security; Geospatial Sciences; and Brain Science; and Technologies for Understanding Human Communications. Attendance at these events, aimed at a general audience, has averaged more than 100 per session.

The Entrepreneurial Development Series, aimed at aspiring entrepreneurs and technology managers in established organizations, concluded its second season of nine monthly programs in June, 2009. Participants have rated the programs as excellent to outstanding. The series will begin its third season in September 2009.

NEW INITIATIVES

UTD Innovation Opportunity Camp. A two-week summer program focused on innovation and entrepreneurship for high school students was launched in June 2009 with thirty campers in attendance. Partially underwritten by the TI Foundation, this team-based program features the entrepreneurship faculty, with significant contributions by entrepreneurial CEOs and service providers.

Texas University Network for Innovation & Entrepreneurship. In May 2009, the Institute teamed with the several other Texas universities to launch a state-wide organization of university entrepreneurship centers. Dr. Joseph Picken of UT Dallas will serve an initial term as the Executive Director of this organization. Our goal is to encourage collaborative initiatives, deliver a consistent message about our contributions to economic development and provide a forum for the exchange of program ideas and best practices among entrepreneurship programs across Texas.

For further information, contact Dr. Joseph C. Picken, Executive Director at jpicken@utdallas.edu.

<http://innovation.utdallas.edu>