



Annual Report

FY 2019

INSTITUTE FOR
*Innovation and
Entrepreneurship*

UTD THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS
Naveen Jindal School of Management



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It was a landmark year in the history of the Institute, with new programs, new initiatives and new faces.

We added new adjuncts to our growing undergraduate “pitch course” (ENTP 3301 Innovation & Entrepreneurship), including having the Mechanical Engineering and Arts & Performance departments list the course in their respective catalogs as a preferred elective.

Our national academic rankings, for the first time, were in the Top 15 in both undergraduate and graduate categories, listing us #6 overall.

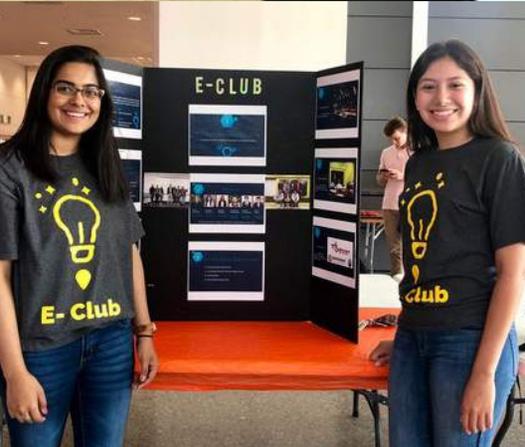
We started a new MIT-inspired initiative between our North Texas sister institutions of UT Southwestern and UT Arlington, to share mentors and best practices to improve the startup companies and spinouts all three of us are generating. This collaboration is the first of its kind and is going to be the bedrock of more interaction and shared efforts between our three universities.

As a UT Dallas double-alum, it’s a humbling and exciting opportunity to work on behalf of the university that has helped guide me throughout my life to fascinating and rewarding experiences. I’m elated to be working with an outstanding team on even more plans for 2020.

Paul Nichols

Paul Nichols

Executive Director, Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship



TESTIMONIALS

“Deciding to be part of the CometX program has been one of the best decisions of my life. Though I had built small scale apps before, I had the wrong idea of building businesses at scale.”

– **Anish Hegde**,
computer science graduate student

“The services, facilities and mentors are a huge benefit to companies like ours trying to get off the ground.”

– **John Tauch**,
co-founder, R9 Technologies

“GalXc has been my first step towards fulfilling my dream of having my own startup! With all the inspiration and courage, I hope to soon launch my own startup.”

– **Aparna Sekaran**,
finance graduate student

“My experience in CometX was irreplaceable. I had been slowly working on my company for 2 years, spending time planning and tweaking my idea. When I joined CometX, from the first day I was instantly set on track.”

– **Major Grant**,
biomedical engineering student

RANKINGS & RECOGNITION

#5

Best MBA Online Degrees in
Entrepreneurship 2018



13th

UNDERGRADUATE
ENTREPRENEUR
PROGRAM 2020

15th

GRADUATE
ENTREPRENEUR
PROGRAM 2020



Best State for Startups / 2019



Best of Plano 2019
Innovator Award



Tech Titans of the Future
University Level Award



“Moving beyond the shakiest phases of kitchen-table startup to viable company takes vision, hard work and luck. That luck for The University of Texas at Dallas students and alumni comes in the form of the Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship.”



National Model Master's
Program Award



Excellence in Specialty
Entrepreneurship Education
Finalist







OUR HISTORY

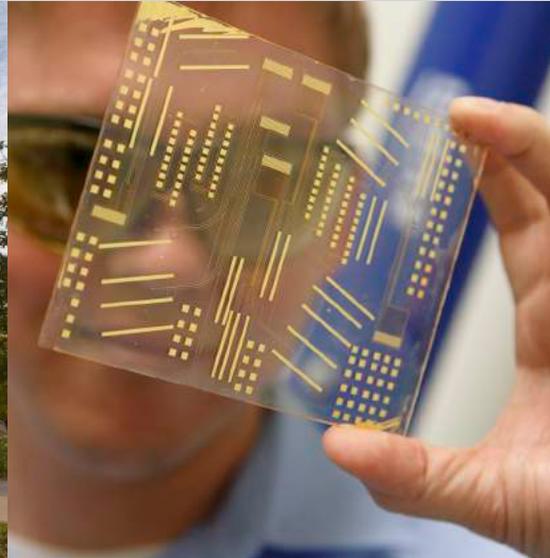
2006



2006 – The Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship is established as a collaborative initiative of the schools of Arts and Humanities; Behavioral and Brain Sciences; Economic, Political and Policy Sciences; Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science; Management; and Natural Sciences and Mathematics. The Institute's programs focus on initiatives in four broad areas: academic and student programs; internal programs and support; community outreach and research.

2007

2008



Spring 2008 – Texas Instruments Foundation establishes a \$332,400 grant to create a TI Science & Technology Innovation Fund. A portion of the grant further established the Entrepreneurship Incentive Scholarship program, which was designed to encourage undergraduates enrolled in UTD's engineering, science and technology majors to take entrepreneurship courses, leading to the university's minor in Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

The Office of Technology Commercialization is created to help researchers create companies and move their inventions from the lab to the marketplace.

2009

2010



Spring 2010 – The School of Management launches the Master of Science in Innovation and Entrepreneurship (MSIE) program designed both for individuals piloting startups and those leading pioneering ventures within established organizations.

2011

2011 – The Venture Development Center opens, creating 8,000-square-feet of dedicated space for spinoff companies established by university students and faculty. The facility includes 11 offices, six laboratories and central facilities such as conference rooms and a kitchen.

2012

2013

2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

2019



2012 - 2014 – Startup Launch Program is introduced, a competitive track within the MSIE degree program that offers students up to \$25,000 in startup funds plus office space in the Venture Development Center at UT Dallas and support and mentoring from faculty and experienced entrepreneurs.

Fall 2015 – CometX Accelerator introduced

2016 – UT Dallas receives \$1 million grant by the Blackstone Charitable Foundation to establish the Blackstone LaunchPad on campus, joining a network of 15 universities across the world.

Spring 2017 – Blackstone LaunchPad co-working space opens. The Institute establishes the UT Dallas Seed Fund to invest in university affiliated startups.

2018 – UT Dallas Seed Fund wins Tech Titans Investment Catalyst Award. I&E Undergraduate program ranked (#23) for first time by The Princeton Review.

New women's initiatives are introduced including GalXc Accelerator and Women's Summit.

STARTUP STORIES



NEURO REHAB VR

Veena Somareddy co-founded Neuro Rehab VR to create virtual and augmented reality therapy games to help patients with traumatic brain injuries, neurodegenerative diseases and those who have suffered from a stroke.

While pursuing her master's degree in game and interactive media design at the university's School of Arts, Technology and Emerging Communications, Veena participated in the Institute's Big Idea Competition, where she pitched her startup in front of a panel of esteemed judges who awarded her

the grand prize of \$15,000. Winning the pitch competition allowed Veena and her team to hire more software developers with the eventual plan to expand their company offerings to five more clinics across the country.

In 2019, her team was focused on creating a line of new products for various therapy modalities. "We are also working on various partnerships with universities and medical institutions to bring our technology to their patients," said Veena.

neurorehabvr.com



RAKKASAN TEA COMPANY

After serving in the United States Army, Brandon Friedman had an idea. Influenced by the customary act of drinking tea while deployed to the war torn Middle East, Brandon wanted to find a way for combat veterans to continue supporting post-conflict communities they served in.

In 2017, he decided to launch a Kickstarter campaign to help financially support his efforts to employ veterans and establish a process to import teas from regions of the world with little reach to US consumers. The campaign was a success and Rakkasan Tea Company was born.

At the Institute's annual Big Idea Competition, Brandon's company was recognized for its 'societal impact' and received a \$5,000 check to support their growth.

Though Brandon graduated from UT Dallas back in 2006, (he received his Master of Public Affairs), he continues to return to campus to provide support as a regular mentor and guest judge for student pitches.

rakkasantea.com



ADAPTIVE3D TECHNOLOGIES

Established back in 2014 by material sciences professor and founder of the Advanced Polymer Research Lab at UT Dallas, Dr. Walter Voit, Adaptive3D Technologies specializes in the development of 3D photopolymer resins for innovative applications.

In the fall, Adaptive3D announced the closing of a Series A funding round co-led by DSM Venturing, the investment arm of Royal DSM, and Applied Ventures, LLC, the VC arm of materials engineering company Applied Materials.

The investment will enable Adaptive3D to keep delivering 3D printable photosin materials to market for applications in various industries

Recently, after outgrowing their lab and office space at the university's Venture Development Center, Adaptive3D opened their new home office just down the street from campus in a 8,000+ sq.ft. facility.

adaptive3d.com

STARTUP STORIES



FIFTH & CHERRY

Tim Reazor's father has owned a custom cabinetry business in Pennsylvania for over 35 years, but it wasn't until Tim nearly ruined his wife's own heirloom cutting board that Tim got to thinking, "What if we could create and sell something that could hold memories and last a lifetime?"

Sourcing leftover black cherry lumber from his father's shop, Tim - who is earning his master's degree in Innovation and Entrepreneurship - began putting together a plan on how to go about creating a business model around cutting boards.

Working closely with Institute faculty and staff, Tim developed feedback surveys, product

packaging and an online marketplace.

Shortly after launching Fifth & Cherry, Tim was invited to display his products at the Dallas Market Center's Total Home and Gift Show - it was a huge success!

In November, Tim attended Blackstone LaunchPad powered by Techstars' LaunchPad Lift program in New York City on behalf of UT Dallas. The 2-day event brought executives from Blackstone and Techstars together for mentorship and workshops.

Currently, Fifth & Cherry cutting boards are being sold in Maryland, Oklahoma, and Texas.

fifthandcherry.com



CODE BLUE JEWELRY

While earning her undergraduate degree in healthcare management and molecular biology, Ngan Nguyen was diagnosed with a chronic illness that required her to wear a medical alert bracelet. After noticing the underwhelming appearance of the jewelry available, she decided to create her own line of delicate, customizable jewelry that serves more than one purpose.

"Code Blue turns sickness into a strength by creating products that transform the patient experience," said Nguyen. In just the first year, she filled close to 800 orders from her apartment and enlisted the help of her mother to sew the jewelry bags that would be

used for shipping.

In 2018, having never pitched her idea to anyone before, Ngan, entered the university's annual Big Idea Competition. After beating over 100 students to make it to the finals, Ngan walked away with a \$5,000 check and a feature story in the local publication, D Magazine.

After enrolling in graduate school to earn a degree in finance, Ngan received a \$15,000 scholarship from the Texas Business Hall of Fame Foundation.

codebluejewelry.com



SURVIVR

Brian Hoang was earning his undergraduate degree in software engineering when he set out to start a new club on campus, the Virtual Reality Society. It was shortly after this that Brian, along with computer science student, Marwan Kodeih, decided to create a more profitable venture.

After a chance encounter with a former law enforcement officer, Brian and Marwan established Survivr, a training platform that uses virtual reality to train first responders in active shooter situations.

Since the launch of his company, Brian has gone on to place first in the university's Big Idea

Competition, took first-place - \$4,000 prize - from the Global Student Entrepreneur Awards (GSEA) Dallas competition and received a \$15,000 scholarship from the Texas Business Hall of Fame Foundation.

Currently, Brian and his team at Survivr have launched pilots with a number of police departments, signed their first deals (including a contract with the U.S. Air Force) and raised their first funding round - as well as a residency in Techstars Austin.

survivr.com

COLLABORATIVE SPACES

Blackstone LaunchPad is the front door for entrepreneurship at UT Dallas. Our students can walk in with an idea and get connected to resources that will help them take the next step. These resources include mentorship, a co-working space for student-led startups and events ranging from guest lectures on current technologies to community networking events.

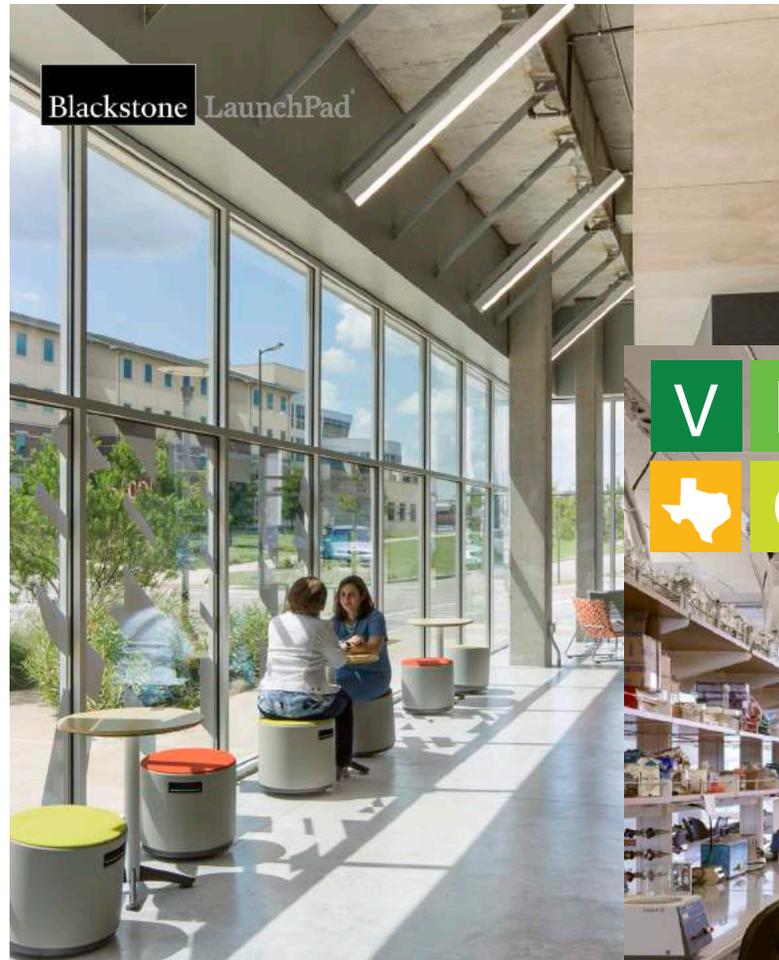


4.8K
VISITORS
(FY 2019)



89
EVENTS HOSTED
(FY 2019)

5,000 sq.ft.



23 COMPANIES IN RESIDENCE
FY 2019

20,000 sq.ft.

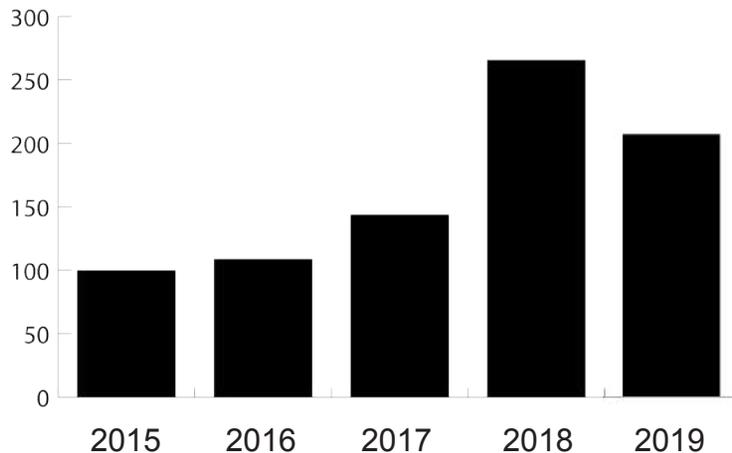


INSTITUTE PROGRAMS

BIG IDEA

COMPETITION

STUDENT TEAMS
REGISTERED 2015-19



ANNUAL UNIVERSITY PITCH COMPETITION

This competition brings undergraduate and graduate students together from all disciplines across campus to pitch the most innovative startups and ideas in front of their peers and a panel of esteemed judges to win cash and scholarship awards.

\$200K PRIZE MONEY & SCHOLARSHIPS
AWARDED FALL 2018 & 2019

1,000+ NUMBER OF ATTENDEES
EACH YEAR

PAST WINNERS

FALL 2019 WINNERS

First Place Winner, \$25,000 – ResumePuppy

Third Place Winner, \$5,000 – AccessMyResearch

Innovate(her) Winner, \$5,000 – Leg Up Legal

Biggest Social Impact Winner, \$5,000 – Rakkasan Tea Company

Biggest Idea Winner, \$5,000 – AccessMyResearch

UTDesign Startup Challenge Winner, \$20,000 – BeYOUty Tech

UTDesign Startup Challenge Winner, \$20,000 – Fluid Impulse

FALL 2018 WINNERS

First Place Winner, \$25,000 – SurviVR

Second Place Winner, \$10,000 – CytoPDMS

Third Place Winner, \$5,000 – Sahai

Best Undergraduate Idea Winner, \$5,000 – ThreadAI

Biggest Social Impact Winner, \$5,000 – SeeBoost

Biggest Idea Winner, \$5,000 – Aireal

UTDesign Startup Challenge Winner, \$20,000 – Sahai

UTDesign Startup Challenge Winner, \$20,000 – ThreadAI

UTDesign Startup Challenge Winner, \$15,000 – HoboLoco

INSTITUTE PROGRAMS



VENTURE DEVELOPMENT CENTER INCUBATION PROGRAM

UT Dallas affiliated startups can apply for dedicated office or wet/dry lab space at the university's exclusive incubation space. Residents can build out their teams, protect IP and connect with industry experts.

23 COMPANIES IN RESIDENCE
FY 2019

FY 2019 Startup Companies

Adaptive3D	Sinno Technology
Astrapi	SNAP Energy Ventures
ClearNano	SoPHIELABS
Data Security Technologies	SOTECH Secure/
Emtech Solutions	Nano-Bio Detection Systems
Invene	Sprinkl
MaxIR Labs	SqwaQ
MicroSol Technologies	SurvivR
OnPoynt Aerial Solutions	TechRover Solutions
PSolve	Teds Brain Sciences
Qualia	TraceIT
R9 Technology	TrivTech Dx
	WaveXchange



This experiential accelerator program pulls student entrepreneurs into an environment that incubates ideas and engages prospective customers in preparation for the launch of a new business concept.

127 participants

NEW Spring 19'



This newly introduced accelerator provides education, training, networking and mentoring to a cohort of women. Participants develop skills and competencies to become effective business leaders and founders of high-achieving startups.

59 participants



The Seed Fund invests exclusively in early-stage technology startups founded by UTD students, faculty, staff, alumni and other program affiliates.

6 investments



This network is designed to complement existing entrepreneurship on-campus resources; coordinate off-campus opportunities for schools and students to expand their reach; and convene students and staff at world-class events leveraging industry-leading mentors, networks and brands.

26 schools

INSTITUTE PROGRAMS

UT DALLAS WOMEN'S SUMMIT

North Texas-area women entrepreneurs share their lessons learned, offer on-the-ground guidance and talk through their careers with UT Dallas students and others in the university community.

52 speakers
650 participants

Startup Internship and Career Fair

Students interested in interning or working for a local startup are encouraged to attend the fair that features North Texas startup companies looking for tech, marketing, design and business talent.

41 companies
643 attendees



Through our partnership with Capital Factory, a select number of UT Dallas student/alumni founders and their teams are given no-charge, co-working memberships to Capital Factory's downtown Dallas location.

16 applicants
25 companies

Emerging Technologies Summit

Fintech
Blockchain
A.I.

WHAT'S NEW & NEXT IN TECH

Attend the summit, which brings students, entrepreneurs and industry experts together to network and share insights on the biggest topics in tech.

51 speakers
1,011 attendees

innovate (her)

Sponsored by Capital One, this program was created to educate young women about technology, finance and the entrepreneurial mindset necessary for a successful future. Participants engage with professional women mentors from the community through a series of activities designed to encourage innovative thinking.

175 mentors
350 students

NEW Fall 19'



VENTURE MENTORING SERVICE

VMS NTX is part of Texas Venture Connect, which provides a twofold platform to entrepreneurs and mentors. Entrepreneurs can receive world-class mentoring services and guidance from a team of experienced professionals to grow their businesses. Mentors guide aspiring entrepreneurs, helping them to overcome challenges through a streamlined online platform.

29 mentors
10 ventures



EARN A DEGREE

UT Dallas offers a wide range of exceptional innovation and entrepreneurship academic programs at both the graduate and undergraduate levels. Our courses blend state-of-the-art curriculum with experiential learning in a flexible format that allows each student to tailor their degree to meet their needs.

85 MASTER OF SCIENCE IN INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP STUDENTS SINCE INCEPTION



VENTURE ANALYST PROGRAM

This course enables entrepreneurship and finance students to participate directly in the process leading to seed investments or grants in high-potential startups by engaging in a rigorous due diligence process that leads to initial grant funding.

51 venture analysts

Startup Launch I & II

A competitive track within the MSIE and undergraduate degree programs that offers students up to \$25,000 in startup funds; office space in the Venture Development Center; and support and mentoring from faculty and experienced entrepreneurs.

68 SL1 Undergrad

21 SL 1 Grad

11 SL 2 Grad



SOFTWARE STARTUP LAUNCH TRACK

Computer Science students interested in launching a software-based startup company can elect to pursue the CS Software Launch Track (CS-SSLT).

DONORS

AmplifAI

Axxess

Blackstone Charitable Foundation

Capital Factory

Capital One

Claire and Terry Rock Scholarship

Collide Village

Dallas Blockchain

Dallas Business Journal

Dallas Capital Bank

DFWexcelsator

freshbenies Scholarship

G6 Holdings

Gardere

Goldman Sachs

Haynes and Boone

Hypergiant

IBM

Interlock Partners

Lars Magnus Ericsson Scholarship

Montgomery Coscia Greilich

Nano Global Corp

Naya Ventures

North Texas Blockchain Alliance

NTT Communications

NTT Data

Onpoint Leadership

Palomino Capital

Peter Buffett Scholarship

Plains Capital Bank

REVTECH Ventures

Richardson Living

Roger Wilco

Saadia Sheikh Scholarship

Silicon Valley Bank

State Farm

Tech Titans

Texas Capital Bank

The Dallas Entrepreneur Center

TiE Dallas-The Indus Entrepreneurs

Tolleson Wealth Management

Vela Wood

Vinson & Elkins

Wright Connatser

Wyly Family Foundation

PEOPLE

The Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship consists of a combination of faculty and staff who work cross-departmentally in the Naveen Jindal School of Management.

Faculty & Staff



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Ronak Hedge
Matthew Lorentz
Harshini Rallapalli

Ramya Reddy
Sarah Romanko
Coraima Saavedra
Askshat Sharma

Mentors

Melissa Acosta
Mateen Aini
Shaz Amin
Jim Bohlman
Chris Camillo
Mike Chaffin
Mary Clinton
Clifton Colbert
Bri Crow
Tracey Davies
Dennis Dayman
Rick Deitch
Jason Derry
Casi DeYoung
David Evans
Maura Schreier-
Fleming
Leah Frazier
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Cindy Revol
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