

Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship

(as of June 1, 2016)

Established in 2013 the UNCW Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (CIE) has the goal of nurturing and accelerating the entrepreneurial ecosystem in Southeastern North Carolina. The CIE strives to be the premier catalyst for entrepreneurial growth by linking emerging ventures, entrepreneurs, and support organizations to create business growth, jobs, and innovation through events, opportunities, research, education, and relationships. The CIE has event space for training, co-working space for startups, incubator office space for qualified entrepreneurs, and access to experienced mentors, faculty and other UNCW resources. As an integrated "one-stop shop" for entrepreneurs the CIE also houses the UNCW Office of Innovation and Commercialization (OIC), which identifies, supports, and commercializes UNCW technology and innovative solutions. The OIC manages intellectual property, patenting, and licensing decisions at UNCW, and provides mentoring in these areas through the CIE.

Currently the UNCW CIE/OIC has the following centers and programs

- 11,000 sq. ft. facility on College Road, Wilmington with a advanced "smart" event and teaching space available to public (upgraded in July, 2016); 19 offices for tenants; a large co-working space with computers; 3D printing and poster printing; large interactive touch boards; video conferencing; a staffed media center with advanced film and editing capabilities; an entrepreneurship library; various meeting spaces and a wide range of mentoring and advising.
- Satellite office located at Center for Marine Sciences focusing on marine sciences, biotechnology, and aquaculture commercialization activities.
- Regional Small Business Administration (SBA) office within the CIE; the regional Small Business Development and Technology Center (SBDC) adjacent to the CIE. Both offering training and mentoring with the CIE.
- CIE Extension Center in UNCW underserved communities, including a CIE Extension and co-working space in Bladen County (in development).
- On-campus student-run CIE co-working space for UNCW student entrepreneurs (in development).
- Targeted programs are being developed all the time, including Business of Aquaculture, Risk Management, and Exporting 101.

Source: UNCW, CIE and OIC Administration



DATA DIGEST

The CIE economic impact includes:

- 34 current tenants at CIE, 6 more in development; many in revenue or funded stages. HealthTech, EdTech, and MarineTech dominant.
- CIE/OIC supported firms currently employ 45 full time workers and 81 part time workers in various managerial & technology-related fields.
- Example of current CIE Tenant: *Lapetus Solutions, Inc.* (mid-stage facial analytics and biodemography firm) - 14 employees.
- Example of current CIE Tenant: *SeaHawk Innovation* supported firms (early-stage firms including infant care products, DNA tagging technologies, and concussion ID) – 15 employees
- Thousands of hours of free business/IT mentoring for community entrepreneurs provided by CIE professional mentors each year; 5 formal focus groups for local non-profits and businesses (in 2016).
- 70 events sponsored by the CIE in 2015 with approximately 4,700 attendees; larger number of events offered in 2016. Events cover wide variety of business topics, lean entrepreneurship, financing, start-up skills, IT and coding.
- 35 professional commercial video and media projects (in 5 months, 2016) by CIE Media team for CIE tenants and local businesses.
- 54 groups, companies and non-profits using the CIE event space with over 1,000 attendees (in just 5 months, 2016).

CIE commitment to underserved communities includes:

- High School Entrepreneurship Competition for 10 county region; entrepreneurship training for HS counselor and teachers.
- Free tax assistance for low income residents (with Accounting Dept.).
- Entrepreneurship program for veterans (with SBA); Ex-offenders entrepreneurship program (in development)
- Shark tank think tank programs for local youth (12 to 18 years old) and summer youth entrepreneurship program.
- Minority Enterprise Day; Entrepreneurship training for Hispanics.
- Various programs to support entrepreneurship in the arts; sponsor of *Cucalorus Connect* entrepreneurship program with 2,700 attendees.

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